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THURSDAY, JANUARY 29TH, 2015



**2015 Vale of Glamorgan Building
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**UNPRECEDENTED RESPONSE TO
GEM WELSH LANGUAGE PAGE**
(See letters on pages 2, 17, 32 and 33)

Happy Hookers' day for charity!



ABOVE:
It was a happy day at Coffee Cove recently
when Barry Hookers' Crochet and Craft
group made a donation to the
Vale Parkinson's UK support group.
(SEE PAGE 4 FOR FULL STORY)

Eviction is thwarted

A Barry man took part in an extraordinary protest in Nottingham last Friday, January 23, in support of a householder threatened with eviction.

Mark Hooper, a carer, said: "I left Barry at 3.30am in the morning and met up with two friends, Francis and John, in Cardiff. It was a four-hour drive up to Nottingham."

The three men were heading for the house of Tom Crawford, a man suffering from cancer, who was due to be evicted from his home following a mortgage dispute.

"Francis, John and I are members of a group who regularly meet to discuss ways of dealing with debt."

"We got to Nottingham at around 7.30am. The bailiffs were due to arrive

at 10.15am. It was freezing – minus one! "Other people were gathering. There was a tractor. Banners. People said to us 'Crikey, we can't believe you came all the way from Wales'."

"Tom's house is at the top of a hill and the bailiffs were coming up the hill, but failed to make it."

It was estimated that as many as 500 people turned up in support of Tom Crawford, including members of an anti-austerity group.

Mark said: "The protest was a success. Tom is still in his house."

The events in Nottingham made national headlines over the weekend.

He said he wants people to realise the undue influence wielded by banks and financial institutions on society.

COUNCIL MERGER IS 'DEAD IN THE WATER' (SEE PAGE 18)

£5,000 fine for teenager who sold fake designer goods

A 19-year-old roofer who dealt on the internet in 'designer goods' with false labels, has been given a suspended sentence and ordered to pay £5,000 prosecution costs at Cardiff Crown Court.

Che Siarak, of York Place, Barry, described as "restless, agitated and reckless" pleaded guilty to 18 offences involving running a fraudulent business, selling items with false trademarks and possessing such items.

He was sent to a young offender institution for 12 months, suspended for two years, ordered to carry out 120 hours unpaid work, pay the costs within 28 days, plus a victim surcharge of £100.

Recorder Jonathan Furness QC said Siarak had an "extraordinary record".

Prosecutor Leigh Reynolds, acting on behalf of Vale of Glamorgan Trading Standards, said the offences were discovered in December 2013 when Siarak's home, at the time in High Street, Barry, was raided by the

CROWN COURT REPORT by AJ SICLUNA

police who discovered 84 items with false labels.

Mr Reynolds said Siarak later revealed that he bought the items at Bristol Market and sold them on the internet at a profit.

Even after being arrested, said Mr Reynolds, he continued to trade.

He sold Rolex watches for £40, Bluetooth speakers, designer purses, Polo t-shirts and other items with Jimmy Choo, Louis Vuitton and Hugo Boss labels.

His counsel, Adam Sharp, said: "This was anything but a professional operation. He was in business for three-and-a-half months and there was no widespread distribution."

"The offences were marked by stupidity and ignorance. Most of the property was sold at a modest profit and it all lacked sophistication."

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 7)

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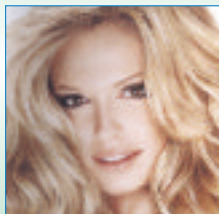
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'We are proud of our native language...'

WE would like to thank and congratulate The GEM on its initiative in publishing occasional pages in Welsh.

This is a valuable addition to the services the paper offers its community. It further reflects the growth in the use of the Welsh language in Cowbridge schools, societies, women's organisations, musical groups and social circles.

The anonymous, intolerant letter writer of January 22 asserts that Cowbridge and the Vale "has always been an oasis of Englishness." The historical reality is that Welsh and English have co-existed in the area since Norman times.

Currently, the use of Welsh is on the increase, as demonstrated by the popularity of Welsh

medium education and the high numbers of fluent young people. This promises well for a bi-lingual future.

We would urge the anonymous letter writer to make him/herself more aware of the numerous formal and informal groups in Cowbridge who meet and socialise in Welsh.

We invite her/him to join us in the Cwtsh Bar of The Bear any Friday morning. There he or she will find a mixture of Welsh speakers and Welsh learners – Cowbridge people proud of their native language.

We are delighted that The GEM seeks to serve all sections of its public – even in the face of ill-informed prejudice.

George Crabb, Deborah Davies, Ann Evans, Jean Lloyd, Jean Roderick, Gareth Thomas, Nigel Thomas, Rhianon Williams.

'Wales is bilingual'

WHEN The GEM was delivered to my door last week, I was looking forward to reading the Welsh page: it was with sadness I read The GEM had been attacked for publishing it!

Wales is a bilingual country with both Welsh and English spoken and I am pleased The GEM has been inclusive in publishing in both languages.

The anonymous person who wrote the letter may be reminded that today's society is

about inclusion and diversity and with the tone of language used in their letter, he or she could be termed 'racist'.

Cowbridge and the Vale have both Welsh and English-speaking families, and people like myself who are learning the language. I know my grandfather, who was Welsh, would be proud of me learning the language.

I sincerely hope you do continue publishing the Welsh page and not pander to an anonymous letter from a very bigoted person. (Name and address supplied)

A 'BRITISH' language

THANK you for your balanced and reasonable reply to the anonymous writer who complained about having Welsh in your excellent paper.

As it stands, the Welsh language is a British language and a part of its heritage. Maybe 'anonymous' is a descendant of one of the three commissioners of the Blue Books of 1847, and their mindset has not progressed!

Aled Hughes, Llantwit Major.

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Readers' Letters

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LETTERS AND E-MAILS MUST INCLUDE FULL ADDRESS AND A CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBER.

IMPORTANT: We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. An email address alone is not sufficient! We will (in certain circumstances) protect a writer's identity, if requested.

The GEM is attacked – for printing article in Welsh!

The anonymous letter writer who lambasted The GEM for publishing a page in Welsh last week, accusing us of "pandering to a minority", provoked a huge response from readers, who have swelled the Editor's postbag – and all, without exception, expressed support for this newspaper's stance.

'Why should anyone object to me learning my country's language?'

UNLIKE the anonymous writer in last week's GEM letters page, I'm happy to give my name. I partially agree with some of the comments made in that letter; Cowbridge is a nice town and I'm very happy to live near here.

Whether it is "special", I don't know. I visit many other nice towns in south Wales – Llantwit Major, Crickhowell, Brecon, Abergavenny, Llandeilo – all very pleasant places.

The writer says it's "successful". If he or she means that there are expensive houses in the area, Maseratis, Ferraris, BMWs, Mercedes, etc, parked along the High Street, then yes, it is a successful town.

But doesn't this disprove the writer's view that people are moving away from the area for a better "lifestyle and a better education"? And I know that parents still move into the Cowbridge Comprehensive School catchment area for the benefit of their children's education.

However, my real disagreement with this mysterious writer is with his aggression towards Welsh speakers and the language – which, by the way, is older than English. Two years ago (at the age of 66) I started learning Welsh.

Having been born and bred in Pontypridd, and moving to Llyswoerth 28 years ago, I suddenly became more aware and proud of my Welsh nationality and decided to learn my country's language. (Why on earth would anyone object to this?)

I'm now in my second year and I attend three classes each week; one in Cowbridge town and two in Bridgend. The classes are very well attended, with a mixture of English people who moved to this area for work reasons, and others who are Welsh born and bred.

In the Cowbridge class, the split is approximately 80 per cent English 20 per cent Welsh. I know that some of the students are in their sixth year, so it's obviously an ongoing project.

Of my 80 per cent English classmates in Cowbridge, at least half are mothers in their 20s/30s

with children attending the Welsh school.

This was the free choice of the English parents and because of this, the mothers have also decided to learn Welsh. Not for business or for professional reasons, but because they think it's a good thing to do – perhaps just as one might if moving to France, for example.

Since I started my classes, I'm surprised actually how much Welsh is spoken around town. Perhaps our writer would like to know that every week the Bear Hotel in Cowbridge has coffee mornings for Welsh speakers, that until very recently a local café used Welsh with its customers (it has now changed hands).

A dress shop in the town has a Welsh-speaking proprietor, and if they were to visit the Waitrose coffee shop, one will often hear Welsh spoken at the different tables.

So, I don't think that Cowbridge is any more or less "special" for the number of Welsh or non-Welsh speaking people that live here – that's just the way it is – live with it! **Michael Tough, Llyswoerth.**

'Welsh is going from strength-to-strength'

MAY I congratulate The GEM and Menter Iaith Bro Morgannwg, on the new collaboration with regard to the Welsh language pages in the newspaper.

It's great that The GEM is so inclusive and mindful of the needs of the local Welsh community.

It's a progressive attitude that is so important for many of us – Welsh speakers and non-Welsh speakers alike.

The Welsh language is going from strength-to-strength, both in Cowbridge and in the Vale as a whole. The fact that two new Welsh

medium primary schools have been opened in recent years, and with the doubling in size of Ysgol Gwaun y Nant currently under way, shows how valued the language is locally, and how demand for it has grown.

How sad to read the anonymous letter sent to The GEM last week, and to note how out of touch the writer clearly is with the goodwill that is now shown towards the language from many sectors of our community.

Diolch i chi yn y Gem am arwain y ffordd ac am eich gwledigaeth parhau y Gymraeg.
SE Jones, Llantrithyd.

'Why does the Welsh language arouse such angry feelings?'

IREFER to the letter in last week's issue attacking The GEM for publishing an article in Welsh.

In a modern, tolerant society, diversity should be welcomed and the needs of different sections of the community recognised.

The GEM should be applauded for including Welsh language articles, because it enables certain members of the community to read news in their first language and allows schoolchildren studying Welsh, the opportunity to see the language used outside the confines of the classroom.

Why an article published in the Welsh language should arouse such fury is puzzling; but no less so than the views of previous correspondents to your newspaper who have raged at bilingual road signs or supermarket signs saying 'Croeso' (Welcome).

It is difficult to understand such intolerance, and you are left wondering what it is about the beautiful and beleaguered Welsh language that conjures up quite so much anger in those who cannot tolerate its existence. **Huw Lloyd, Aberthyn.**

'Proud to speak Welsh language'

IAM writing to you in reply to the letter that an anonymous reader sent in about an article being published in Welsh (The GEM, January 22).

I am a 16-year-old fluent Welsh speaker and have been since being able to talk. I am proud of this. Welsh is a language that many people cannot speak and as a young person, I feel fortunate to have this ability.

I cannot comprehend people's problem with the Welsh language. It is part of our legacy and tradition. It is, of course, a personal decision to speak the language or not – I will always respect that decision.

However, it is insulting that someone would be so rude as to

mock this unique part of what makes us all Welsh. I could never go to another country, live there and insult its culture.

The Welsh language shouldn't have a negative effect at all. At my Welsh medium comprehensive, there are always outstanding GCSE and A Level results every year. Not to mention many previous pupils securing places at top universities.

If you do not want to read an article that's in Welsh, you don't have to. You are free to skip the page.

Although we all have the freedom to voice our opinion, I would appreciate it if it was in a polite and respectful manner. Not as an unnecessary mockery.

Rydych chi'n falch i allu siarad yr iaith Gymraeg.
Cerys Evans

'Breathtaking ignorance'

IHAVE just read the letter printed in The GEM, presumably from someone in Cowbridge, regarding the use of the Welsh language in your publication.

Surely this was written in jest, as it displays such breathtaking ignorance, that I cannot believe it has been written with any serious intent – and certainly not by anyone who is actually Welsh.

The claims made in the letter are so laughably ludicrous that

it is no wonder it was sent in anonymously; no one in their right mind would want to expose themselves to the sort of ridicule that the espousing of such stupidly distorted thinking would generate.

I'm certain that the vast majority of your readers, including non-Welsh speakers, of whom I am also one, applaud your inclusion of a page in our native language and would urge you to continue for as long as you remain in business.

Peter Smith, Porthcawl.

• SEE MORE LETTERS ON THIS TOPIC, AND OTHERS, ON PAGES 17, 32, 33.

HIGH TIDE TIMES (UNTIL FEBRUARY 5)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
29 Thur	00.57	8.1	13.36	7.9
30 Fri	02.15	8.0	14.54	7.9
31 Sat	03.32	8.1	16.06	8.2
01 Sun	04.33	8.6	17.01	8.7
02 Mon	05.27	9.0	17.53	9.1
03 Tues	06.11	9.3	18.21	9.5
04 Wed	06.46	9.6	19.06	9.4
05 Thur	07.22	9.7	19.35	9.5

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

We abide by the code of practice upheld by the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO). This contains provisions for issues such as accuracy.

If you have a complaint, write to us at the address below, left, or call editorial manager Don John on 01446 774484. All complaints will be fully investigated. If you are not satisfied with the outcome, you may wish to contact IPSO c/o Halton House, 20-23 High Holborn, London EC1N 2JD. Website: www.ipso.co.uk. Tel: 0300 123 2220. E-Mail: complaints@ipso.co.uk. Enquiries: inquiries@ipso.co.uk.



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ONLY TWO OUT OF EIGHT COUNCILLORS
TURN UP FOR PLANNING MEETING...

'Labour's no show attacks democracy'

— says Plaid Cymru

PLAID CYMRU councillors have accused Labour of turning Barry Town Council meetings from "a joke" into "a serious attack on democracy" — after a third meeting had to be cancelled in six months.

Plaid said that only two councillors attended a meeting of a special planning committee on Thursday, January 15, when eight elected representatives were expected.

Two Plaid representatives, Coun Shirley Hodges and Coun Ian Johnson, were present, alongside staff members and a planning consultant — but five Labour councillors and an independent failed to make it.

Coun Hodges told The GEM: "Barry Town councillors are all volunteers.

"We have other calls upon our time — work commitments, family, social, and often other meetings as well.

"But this is fast going from a joke to a serious attack upon democracy in our town.

"This is the third time in six months that a Barry Town Council

meeting has had to be abandoned because not enough Labour councillors have turned up.

"In this case, the council cannot submit any recommendations on the Vale's local transport plan and how it affects Barry over the next 15 years.

"That's a long time for Barry's voice not to be heard. Plaid feels that the town council should be the voice of Barry.

"Residents need better bus and train services, there are issues of improving the safety of routes to schools and the question of decent parking.

"Unfortunately, the council's voice is now mute.

"Plaid intend to make its own suggestions on the Vale Council's plans."

Coun Hodges said it was clear some elected councillors were not taking their roles seriously and she hoped the people of the town would take that into account when they next cast their vote.

Labour's Stuart Egan said: "The special planning meeting was not a scheduled meeting and was called at short notice."

Youth Speaks at Rotary competition



Winners Megan Davies, Elin Alexander, Brenning Davies, Twm Aled, Huw Jones and Indeg Evans.

AS part of its programme to help develop students' skills, Barry Rotary Club held its Youth Speak competition on January 21.

The competition was hosted by Elena Morgan of Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg.

Three junior teams competed and two senior teams, all from the Welsh school. The junior competition was won by Huw Jones, Twm Aled, and Indeg Evans — whose subject was 'Obesity: an Expanding Problem'.

Huw Jones and Twm Aled were also named as best chairman and best speaker, with Carys Fox best proposer of vote of thanks.

Other competitors were Thomas Pugh,

Arwel Thomas, James Rees, Mary Ann Moss, and Beca Berry.

Two teams competed for the senior award in a contest which was won by Elin Alexander, Brenning Davies, and Megan Davies whose subject was 'Scientific Knowledge is only as Beneficial as Humanity is Good'.

Brenning won best speaker and Megan best proposer of vote of thanks. Other participants were Tirion Davies, Niclas Want, and Anwen Fardy, with Tirion named best chairperson.

Judges were Terry Brooks and Phil McCaffrey of Cardiff Speakers Club with Alan Yeomans of the Rotary Club as

questioner.

Phil spoke for the judges and gave helpful advice for future contests.

Both winning teams will now go on to the next stage to be held at Cardiff Golf Club on Monday, February 2, competing with other Vale and Cardiff teams.

In summing up, Robin Pitcher, president of Barry Rotary Club, said that the level of competition had been outstanding and particularly congratulated all participants on their confidence and voice projection — skills which would serve them well in their future careers.

He also thanked Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg for supporting the event.

ROBIN
PITCHER

Don't say cheese, say singalong!

THE Tuesday afternoon meeting at Highlight Park Women's Institute was a quiz, a cup of tea and a chat, which everyone enjoyed.

The main meeting on the third Tuesday of the month, should have had a talk on Blaenavon cheese by Susan Flanders, but bad weather meant she could not get there. A singalong to a tape of Sing Something Simple brought back a few memories. A quiz on boys' names caused quite a laugh.

To know more about WI, contact either Jeanette on 01446 410139, or Pat on 01446 734283.

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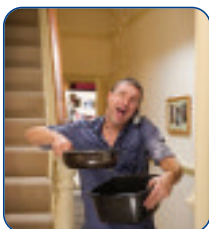
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CROCHET GROUP' RAISES £510 FOR PARKINSON'S UK



ABOVE:
Members of the group pictured
at the presentation.

WEDNESDAY, January 21 was a busy day at Coffee Cove, Barry Island, where Barry Hookers' Crochet and Craft group meet and a donation was made to the Vale Parkinson's UK support group.

Money was raised by ticket sales for a Christmas hamper raffle, and also from donations given to one of the craft group who did the New Year's Day swim at Barry Island. In total, £510 was donated.

The Vale support group meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 2pm in the Murchfield Community Centre, Dinas Powys, CF64 4QQ. For further information, contact 02920 512724.

In addition, a presentation was made to Alex, the owner of Coffee Cove, for hosting the Barry Hookers group.

The group made a montage for a wall display, every member contributed to it, and it is now on display at the cafe. If anyone would like to join the group, all are welcome each Wednesday (10am-12pm).

Rhoose bingo THE management committee at Rhoose Community Hall in Stewart Road are holding their first fundraising bingo afternoon on Saturday, January 31 in the hall, at 2.30pm. All proceeds go towards the running of the hall. Light refreshments provided at the half time break.



BARRY HARD OF HEARING GROUP

MEMBERS of Barry Hear to Meet group enjoyed a three-course Christmas meal at The Cwm Ciddy Carvery, Port Road, Barry, when along with volunteers Pam and Fiona and Penny Copner from Action on Hearing Loss, they were celebrating the end of another successful year.

The group meets on the first Friday of every month in the Philip John Room in Barry Library between 2.15pm and 4pm and recently have had interesting talks on safety in the home, the Vale 50+ Strategy Forum and

community food co-operatives.

Afterwards, they chat over tea and cake, and reminisce on their own experiences. They welcome new members and there is no charge.

The group is open to those over 50 with significant hearing loss and there is a loop system in use to ensure that everyone is included.

For further information, contact Martin Griffiths from Action on Hearing Loss: 02920 333034 (ask for Martin Griffiths).

Text Relay: 18002 02920 333378 or e-mail: martin.griffiths@hearingloss.org.uk. **FW**

TOWN FILLED WITH GOOD SAMARITANS!

YET again, Barry folks have come up trumps. Over a year ago, I lost my purse in Barry Island, only to find it due to several people's kindness.

I wrote to you to say how upset I get when people 'bad mouth' Barry and its residents.

It is true I too was a reluctant resident of Barry, as it had the reputation as a high crime area - but I've ended up living in a close that is so friendly. I'd never move - even if I won the Lottery.

This Christmas I lost a beautiful silver bracelet and to my astonishment,

I saw a notice in your newspaper to say one had been found in the High Street.

Louise (who works in The Gallery Boutique) had found it and made the effort to put this notice in The GEM.

I really don't think many folks would go to so much trouble. A big thanks to Louise, who like Adam who found my purse, has reinforced my belief that human nature can be so kind.

So stay away from me if you bad mouth Barry, as I might use my bunch of fives on my knuckle knuckle duster ring.

Jane Walker, Barry



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HOW 1940s HOUSE WAS TRANSFORMED INTO AN ECO-EFFICIENT HOME!

A Penarth man has carried out an 'energy efficient upgrade' to a detached house, built in the 1940s, and believes his yearly energy bills could end up as low as £500.

Nigel Humphrey, an architectural designer, said that prior to the upgrade, the house was hopelessly inefficient.

It was being heated with an ageing gas boiler and old radiators. Pipes that ran between the living area and the attic were lagged with old newspapers dating back to 1975!

The aluminium double glazed windows installed decades earlier were leaky and prone to

REPORT by TIM CHAPMAN

condensation. There were also air bricks everywhere, open to the cavity which had no insulation.

Nigel explained: "The renovation took 10 months and we've now moved in."

"The total energy cost for the house is on track to meet the planned £500 for the year with zero carbon emissions."

"Heating the place before must have cost a fortune and produced huge clouds of CO2."

He explained that a crucial factor in efficient heating of a house is to cut down on drafts. The volume of air in a house can change from between five and 10 times an hour – and it all has to be reheated.

Nigel's renovation and improvement works have cut down the change of air from between a volume of half and two an hour.

"We decided to replace all external doors and windows with well sealed triple glazed units, to insulate the cavity walls and attic, install an air

source heat pump, solar PV panels, and panel wall heating in the existing house."

"Under-floor heating was installed in the extension. The new extension was built with super-insulated timber walls, and roof lights positioned to collect heat and energy from the sun as well as providing high levels of daylight to the centre of the house."

"Next, we needed to gain as much free (solar) and renewable energy as possible, from the PV panels on the roof, and through the windows, rooflights and the conservatory."

Nigel got grants for work to the cavity walls and attic. He also installed an 'air source heat pump' which takes heat from the air and boosts it to a higher temperature.

"Not only do we get the 'Feed In Tariff' of 14p/kWh, estimated to be earn about £250 a year, we also get payments from the 'renewable heat incentive' for the air source heat pump."

"The renewable energy costs therefore for all space and water heating, lighting, appliances, and cooking are about £500 for the year. Because all the energy used is from renewable sources the CO2 production is zero."

The long overdue renovation of the house cost approximately £38,500, but it is now 'eco-fit' for decades to come.

Last week, *Casualty* was being filmed at Nigel's house. The storyline? Someone getting carbon monoxide poisoning from a gas boiler. Something of an irony since Nigel has disconnected the gas!

Nigel is happy to discuss his project with people who are interested: tel: 02920 709565; or go to www.mas.eu.com.



Nigel relaxing in his Penarth eco-home.

Catching up at Cadoxton WI

THE first meeting of the new year at Cadoxton (Barry) WI was well attended by 25 members and three guests, who held a bring and buy sale to raise funds and it was interesting to see some of the lovely items on offer.

There was no need for a speaker, everyone seemed to have a lot of catching up to do and discuss the future events which this year

have been printed on the programmes.

The secretary talked about the centenary meal which was held in Aberavon Beach Hotel at lunchtime.

This is the first of many events GFWI are holding to celebrate the centenary.

The raffles were won by Beryl Pugh and Mary Dare. Meetings are held every third Monday at Victoria Park Community Centre (7pm). Guests are welcome.

Contact 01446 404891. CW

Swimmers' thanks for ladies' donation

BARRY Beavers would like, through *The GEM*, to give a 'big thank you' to Llancarfan Ladies Tuesday Club, for their kind donation at our coffee morning of three stopwatches and a cheque for a £100.

We are very grateful for their kind donation and are using the stopwatches every week.

Mrs Patricia Finch, (secretary/coach), Barry Beavers Disabled Swimming Club.

PACT meetings

BUTTRILLS PACT, Barry Town Council Offices, Gladstone Road, Barry, February 5 at 6.30pm.

STANWELL PACT, The Pod, St Lukes Avenue, Penarth, February 13 at 7pm.

The MASTER MARINER SKOMER ROAD, BARRY

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Chance to join Tall Ship

BARRY Town Council, in association with the Tall Ships Trust, has launched the Barry Marine Youth Award for 2015.

This will involve an all-expenses paid voyage, in UK waters, sailing as a member of the crew aboard the tall ship *Stavros S Niarchos* (or its successor); or aboard a 22m (72ft) ocean going Challenger yacht.

The award, available to Barry residents aged from 12 to 25 years, will offer the opportunity to make new friends, enjoy new challenges and sail aboard a magnificent ocean going square rigged tall ship (subject to availability) or a 22m (72ft) ocean going Challenger yacht.

Applicants need to complete an application form and submit a short written statement of up to 500 words about 'What winning the competition would mean to me and how it would develop my skills / abilities.'

Applications are welcome in Welsh or English.

Deadline is Sunday, March 15 and winners will be selected by March 31.

Further details and application forms can be obtained from Barry Town Council on 01446 738663, or by emailing info@barrytowncouncil.gov.uk.

Applications should be sent to Barry Town Council/Tall Ships Competition, Council Offices, 7 Gladstone Road, Barry, CF62 8NA.

Ramblers take in stunning coastline of west Wales

A GROUP of seven Penarth and District Ramblers joined leader Robin and spaniel Pepper for the journey down to Penmaen on Gower, with the promise of a pub lunch at the King Arthur to spur them on.

Fortunately, after heavy overnight rain the skies brightened and, setting off by climbing Cefn Bryn there were clear views both to the coastline of west Wales on one side of the ridge and across the wide expanse of Oxwich Bay to the other.

Making their way downhill, passing ponies in foal and along boggy pathways to Perriswood, a short trip along the road led them through public footpaths on the Penrice Estate.

Admiring both the ruined Penrice Castle and the lovely manor house built around 1775 by Thomas Mansel Talbot, with its glorious views down to the coast, they made their way towards Penrice village where the church is dedicated to St Andrew and overlooks the village green.

A large patch of flowering snowdrops gave rise to thoughts of spring and passing the ruined mill and the stew pond where fish were bred for the estate, a climb up through the Millwood led them to the pub, which to their dismay was hosting a very large wedding party. However, bar meals were thankfully soon dispatched and heartily devoured.

Then climbing back up onto the ridge way of Cefn Bryn before paying a visit to Arthur's Stone, a Neolithic tomb dating back to 2,500 BC, they continued back to Penmaen, while enjoying lovely clear views of most of the Gower Peninsula, and in particular over the beautiful Three Cliffs Bay.

There are no planned walks for next weekend but this may change so please log onto www.penarthramblers.wordpress.com for any updates.

Programmes and membership advice can be obtained from Pam on 029 2025 5102.

JOY STRANGWARD



Robots take Barry school by storm!



PICTURED ABOVE:

YEAR-5 at Jenner Park Primary School are busy building their midstorm robots in the Lego room, and year-6 are pictured proudly showing off their creations.

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BARRY MAN (28) USED A WHEELBRACE IN ATTACK

A MAN attempted to commit suicide in his car after carrying out an assault when armed with a wheelbrace, Cardiff Crown Court has heard.

Christopher Mitchell (28) had "worked

himself up" before the incident, said prosecutor Tony Trigg.

Mitchell of Amelia Trust Farm, Barry, admitted possessing an offensive weapon, and assaulting Mikey Jones.

He was jailed for 14 weeks, but was released immediately as he had spent several

REPORT by AJ SICLUNA

weeks in custody.

Mr Trigg said Mitchell had had a relationship with Donna Huxtable, but it had not worked out.

On November 1, She was staying with a nephew, Mr Jones, in

the Cogan area.

Mitchell was not welcome there.

He turned up at the house and was let in by Miss Huxtable. When Mr Jones discovered this, he was nonplussed.

Mitchell was removed from the premises but from then on, said Mr Trigg, he had worked himself up.

On November 2, he went to the house, pushed past Miss Huxtable and entered Mr Jones's bedroom and hit him on the leg.

He shouted: "I'm going to kill you."

Mitchell left the house and he was later

discovered in his car attempting to commit suicide by gassing himself and taking an overdose of tablets, the prosecutor said.

In a witness impact statement, Miss Huxtable said she was now afraid to stay in the house alone.

She said she did not want a restraining order made in respect of the defendant.

His counsel, Carl Williams, said he had been on remand several weeks, there were good references and work was open to him.

Judge Neil Bidder QC said: "You took offence at the victim's involvement. The next day you barged into the house, went into the

bedroom and struck Mr Jones through the duvet three or four times. Had Miss Huxtable not intervened, you would have continued.

"You were in a very emotional state and attempted to kill yourself."

He was ordered to pay a victim surcharge of £80.

Man receives £5,000 fine

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Mr Sharp continued: "Unfortunately, his record goes before him. He had a particularly unhappy childhood and is restless, agitated and reckless. Custody holds little fear for him."

Mr Sharp said he was due to become a father, which would help him to grow up.

"I accept that inevitably, he is treading on the thinnest of ice."

The Recorder said his criminal record stretched to 16 pages.

"You willingly and knowingly purchased items you knew were not genuine and sold them on the net."

He warned him: "If you come back to this court, you are going away."



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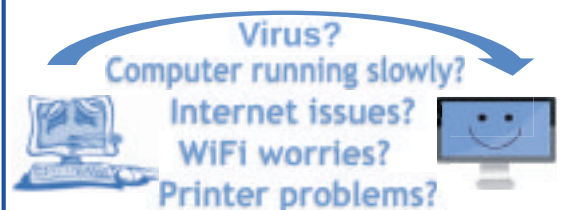
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SEAFRONT STEPS TO BE REPLACED

STEPS along Barry seafront on the western side of Whitmore Bay from the beach to Friars Point are set to be improved.

This will see damaged concrete steps replaced by a new reinforced slab and steps.

Work starts on Monday, January 26 and is expected to take around three weeks.



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ENTERTAINMENT

January
Saturday 31st Live Band - **Kilties** 8.30pm

February
Sunday 1st Live Band - **Back to November** 7.00pm
Saturday 7th Live Band - **The Don** 8.30pm
Sunday 8th Live Band - **This River** 7.00pm
Saturday 14th Live Band - **Goose** 8.30pm
Sunday 15th Live **MOD** Band - **The Riff** 7.00pm
Saturday 21st Live Band - **Back 2 November** 8.30pm
Sunday 22nd Live Duo - **Spokes** 7.00pm
Saturday 28th Live Band - **Dirli Minds** 8.30pm

March
Sunday 1st Live Band - **Outback** 7.00pm
Saturday 7th Karaoke with **Digger** 8.30pm
Sunday 8th Live Band - **The Broadcasts** 7.00pm
Saturday 14th Karaoke with **Digger** 8.30pm
Sunday 15th Live Band - **Harry Fontaine Band** 7.00pm
Saturday 21st Karaoke with **Digger** 8.30pm
Sunday 22nd Live Duo - **Spokes** 7.00pm
Saturday 28th Live Band - **Hollywood** 8.30pm
Sunday 29th Live Band - **Back 2 November** 7.00pm

April
Saturday 4th Live Band - **Goose** 8.30pm
Sunday 5th Live Band - **The Imposters** 7.00pm
Saturday 11th Karaoke with **Digger** 8.30pm
Sunday 12th Live **MOD** Band - **The Riff** 7.00pm
Saturday 18th Karaoke with **Digger** 8.30pm
Sunday 19th Live Band - **This River** 7.00pm
Saturday 25th Live Band - **Brother Steve** 8.30pm
Sunday 26th Live Band - **Spokes** 7.00pm

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orring 01446 703230. Hrs: Tues - Sat 9am - 5pm

'Employment is booming, but much more to do in the Vale'



Vale MP
Alun Cairns
reports to
GEM readers

AS I write this column, there are 100 days to go until the general election. Since 2010, the Conservative Government has worked hard to turn the economy around – the job is far from finished and there is much more we have to do in the Vale of Glamorgan.

Across the Vale, employment is booming, and I have

met many of the businesses that have seen significant growth and created many jobs.

The number of unemployed claimants is 418 lower than at the same point last year, and continues to fall significantly.

That means another 418 local families in the Vale are benefiting from the security of a regular wage.

I fully expect this trend to continue in 2015 and into 2016.

Nationally, 1.75 million more people are in employment since 2010 and the 760,000 new

businesses have the ability to transform many communities.

The UK Government is doing more: from April, the employment allowance means that businesses recruiting staff can save up to £2,000 on employers' National Insurance bills.

This scheme has been uniformly welcomed at the businesses I have met around the Vale.

The economy grew at 2.6 per cent in 2014 – the best year of growth since 2007 and the fastest growing G7 economy. The growth

combined with a major reduction in income taxes and improved communications has resulted in a fertile environment for job creation in the Vale of Glamorgan.

A new business needs lower taxes, skilled employees and fast communications – this is something I have pressed for since my election in 2010.

In many parts of the Vale, broadband speeds and mobile phone reception have improved significantly and more areas will be coming on line in 2015.

There are still a number of 'not-spots' and I am in regular communication with network providers.

The Government is committed to ensuring areas that need better broadband and mobile phone reception in the rural Vale are prioritised.

NHS
There are significant challenges for the NHS in Wales. The need for a solution to patients missing out on vital drugs by way of a cancer drugs fund is

clear to me: £123m has been provided to the Welsh Government in extra funding and this should be used for providing service that makes a difference to the lives of patients.

The answer, however, is not just about funding.

The Welsh Government has controlled health since 1999, and I think most observers would agree that it wasn't supposed to turn out like this.

This newspaper has highlighted many of the disturbing cases of unfairness and lack of care – it is only right that we draw attention to cases when care falls short of expectations.

We are working through the long term economic plan to transform the economy – reducing the deficit means we can continue to invest by living within our means.

We can only build on the progress we have made in securing the recovery if we have a strong economy.

The Vale of Glamorgan Council (CLIFF FARM, TREDOGAN ROAD AND CUCKOO MILL LANE, PENMARK) (ROAD CLOSURE) (TEMPORARY) ORDER 2015

1. On 29th January 2015 the Vale of Glamorgan Council in exercise of its powers under Section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (as amended), made an Order the general effect of which is as described in the schedules below:

2. The Order will be known as "The Vale of Glamorgan Council (Cliff Farm, Tredogan Road and Cuckoo Mill Lane, Penmark) (Road Closure) (Temporary) Order" 2015.

SCHEDULE 1

1. No person shall cause or permit a motor vehicle to proceed in the location specified in Schedule 2 below.

SCHEDULE 2

Location From the junction at grid 304783 169693 at Pancross in a southerly direction to grid 304925 168799 to the south of Cliff Farm.

Reason To allow for the installation of high speed broadband cables.

Duration From 9.00am on Monday 9th February 2015, for a maximum period of 6 months but it is anticipated that the works will be completed by 5.00pm on Monday 2nd March 2015.

Diversions Signed diversions for southbound traffic will be from the point of closure at Pancross, in a south westerly direction through the village of Llancahle, to where this road meets the B4265, then turning left and proceeding in an easterly direction along the B4265 to the junction at grid 305342 168181 then turning left towards Penmark, and proceeding in a north easterly direction to the southern end of the closure, and vice versa for northbound traffic. Access for residents will be maintained from one end of the lane or the other.

Location Tredogan Road, Penmark, from its junction with Croft John for a distance of 30m in an easterly direction.

Reason To allow for the installation of high speed broadband cables.

Duration From 9.00am on Monday 9th February 2015 for a maximum period of 6 months but the works are anticipated to take place between 8.00am on Tuesday 3rd March and 5.00pm on Wednesday 4th March 2015.

Diversions Signed diversions for eastbound traffic will be from the point of closure in a easterly direction along Tredogan Road, then turning left into Kenson Hill, then proceeding in a southerly direction and continuing along this road to the B4265, and turning left, continue along this road to the roundabout where this road meets Tredogan Road, then continue along Tredogan Road to the eastern end of the closure, and vice-versa for westbound traffic.

Location Cuckoo Mill Lane, from its junction with Tredogan Road in a generally north easterly direction to where it meets the access into Cornix Farm.

Reason To allow for the installation of high speed broadband cables.

Duration From 9.00am on Monday 9th February 2015 for a maximum period of 6 months but the works are anticipated to take place between 8.00am on Thursday 5th March 2015 and 5.00pm on Friday 27th March 2015.

Diversions Signed diversions for north easterly traffic will be from the point of closure in a south easterly direction to the A4226, and continuing in a generally easterly direction to Waycock Cross, then turning left and proceeding along the Five Mile Lane (Waycock Road), then turning left at The Moulton turning, and proceeding along this road through the village of Moulton to the northern end of the closure, and vice versa for southbound traffic. Access for residents will be maintained from one end of the closure or the other.

NB: Pedestrian access will be maintained through these closures.

Dated this 29th day of January 2015.

M. E. Punter,
Director of Visible Services & Housing
Vale of Glamorgan Council,
The Alps, Wenvoe. CF5 6AA.



Cyngor Bro Morgannwg 2015 GORCHYMYN (CAU FFORDD) (DROS DRO) (CLIFF FARM, TREDOGAN ROAD A CUCKOO MILL LANE, PEN-MARC)

1. Ar Ionawr 2015 yr oedd Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, gan arfer ei bwerau o dan Adran 14(1) Deddf Rheoli Traffig Ffyrdd 1984 (ddiwgyddig), wedi gwneud Gorchymyn y mae ei effaith gyffredinol wedi'i disgrifio yn yr atodlen isod:
2. Adwaenir y Gorchymyn fel 'Gorchymyn (Cau Ffordd) (Dros Dro) (Cliff Farm, Tredogan Road a Cuckoo Mill Lane, Pen-marc) Cyngor Bro Morgannwg 2015.

ATODLEN 1

1. Ni fydd unrhyw un yn gyrru nac yn caniatáu i unrhyw un arall yrru cerbyd modur yn y lleoliad a bennwyd yn Atodlen 2 isod.

ATODLEN 2

Lleoliad O'r gyffordd ym mhentref Pancross wrth gyfeirnod grid 304783 169693 hyd at fan wrth gyfeirnod grid 304925 168799 sydd i'r de o Cliff Farm wrth deithio i gyfeiriad y de.

Rheswm Cyfnod Er mwyn gosod ceblau band eang cyflym iawn. O 9.00am ar ddydd Llun 9 Chwefror 2015, am gyfnod o 6 mis ar y mwyafr, er y rhagwelir bydd y gwaith wedi'i gwblhau erbyn 5.00pm ar ddydd Llun 2 Mawrth 2015.

Dargyfeirio Gyda chymorth arwyddion, bydd traffig sy'n teithio tua'r de'n cael ei ddargyfeirio o le y caewyd y ffordd ym mhentref Pancross, i gyfeiriad y de-orllewin, drwy bentref Llancahle, hyd at y gyffordd â'r B4265. Bydd yn troi i'r chwith yn y fan honno, ac yn dilyn y B4265 i gyfeiriad y dwyrain, nes cyrraedd y gyffordd wrth gyfeirnod grid 305342 168181. Bydd wedyn yn troi i'r chwith tua'r Phen-marc, ac yn symud ymlaen i gyfeiriad y gogledd-ddwyrain nes cyrraedd pen deheuol y darn caeedig. Bydd traffig sy'n teithio tua'r gogledd yn dilyn yr un llwybr yn union ond o chwith. Bydd mynediad i drigolion o nall ben y lôn neu'r llall drwy gydol yr amser.

Lleoliad Tredogan Road, Pen-marc, o'r gyffordd â Croft John am 30m i gyfeiriad y dwyrain.

Rheswm Cyfnod Er mwyn gosod ceblau band eang cyflym iawn. O 9.00am ar ddydd Llun 9 Chwefror 2015, am gyfnod o 6 mis ar y mwyafr, er y rhagwelir y bydd y gwaith yn digwydd rhwng 8.00am ar ddydd Mawrth 3 Mawrth a 5.00pm ar ddydd Mercher 4 Mawrth 2015.

Dargyfeirio Gyda chymorth arwyddion, bydd traffig sy'n teithio tua'r dwyrain yn cael ei ddargyfeirio o le y caewyd y ffordd, i gyfeiriad y dwyrain ar hyd Heol Tredogan. Bydd yn troi i'r chwith i Kenson Hill, ac yn dilyn yr heol honno i gyfeiriad y de nes cyrraedd y B4265. Bydd yn troi i'r chwith wedyn, ac yn parhau i ddilyn yr heol hon nes cyrraedd y gylchfan lle y mae'r heol yn cwrdd â Heol Tredogan. Bydd yn dilyn Heol Tredogan wedyn nes cyrraedd pen dwyreiniol y darn caeedig. Bydd traffig sy'n teithio tua'r gorllewin yn dilyn yr un llwybr yn union ond o chwith.

Lleoliad Cuckoo Mill Lane, o'r gyffordd â Heol Tredogan Road ac ymlaen i gyfeiriad cyffredinol y gogledd-ddwyrain nes cyrraedd y fan lle y mae'r heol yn cwrdd â'r llwybr tua Cornix Farm.

Rheswm Cyfnod Er mwyn gosod ceblau band eang cyflym iawn. O 9.00am ar ddydd Llun 9 Chwefror 2015, am gyfnod o 6 mis ar y mwyafr, er y rhagwelir y bydd y gwaith yn digwydd rhwng 8.00am ar ddydd Iau 5 Mawrth 2015 a 5.00pm ar ddydd Gwener 27 Mawrth 2015.

Dargyfeirio Gyda chymorth arwyddion, bydd traffig sy'n teithio tua'r gogledd-ddwyrain yn cael ei ddargyfeirio o'r le y caewyd y ffordd i gyfeiriad y de-ddwyrain hyd at yr A4226. Bydd yn symud ymlaen i gyfeiriad cyffredinol y dwyrain nes cyrraedd Waycock Cross, ac yn troi i'r chwith ar hyd Five Mile Lane (Waycock Road). Bydd yn troi i'r chwith wrth y troad ar gyfer pentref Moulton, ac yn dilyn y ffordd drwy'r pentref nes cyrraedd pen gogleddol y darn caeedig. Bydd traffig sy'n teithio tua'r de'n dilyn yr un llwybr yn union ond o chwith. Bydd mynediad i drigolion o nall ben y lôn neu'r llall drwy gydol yr amser.

DS: Bydd mynediad i gerddwyr tra bod yr heolydd hyn ar gau. Bydd yr heolydd ar gau tra bod y gwaith yn cael ei wneud yn unig.

Dyddiedig 29 Ionawr 2015.

M. E. Punter,
Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau Gweladwy a Thai,
Cyngor Bro Morgannwg,
Canolfan yr Alpau, Gwenvoe. CF5 6AA.



'Some people too modest for honours'

THE CBE, OBE, MBE and BEM are all anachronisms because we do not have an empire. It is as dead as the Monty Python parrot.

By all means give people recognition, a thank you, for public spirited work or volunteering. Two 'ordinary' people I have wanted to nominate in the past in Barry were self-effacing and modest and did not want the fuss involved.

I have two foreign decorations, but they were given for valuable work abroad and received no publicity here, nor did I seek it.

Christopher Short, Barry.

Libraries Day

VALE libraries will be taking part in National Libraries Day on Saturday, February 7.

The 2015 Six Book Challenge in Barry, Penarth and Llantwit Major Libraries is aimed at youth groups, pensioners' clubs, young mums, 'knight-and-knatter' groups, jobseekers, with the chance to win prizes and Barry, Penarth, Cowbridge and Llantwit libraries will launch their appeals for people to join Library Friends Groups.

For full details of various other events taking place at local libraries, visit www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk.

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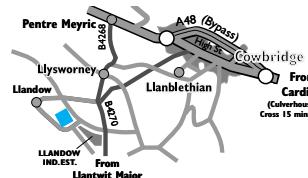
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Residents' festive trees turned into compost



Black gold – and you can pick it up at Court Road Depot!

WASTE and recycling teams have completed their collection of Christmas trees from across the Vale, which have been taken to Cowbridge Compost at Llwynhelig Farm to be turned into compost.

The council announced in December that Cowbridge Compost will deliver a supply of compost every month to the Court Road Depot in Barry for collection, alongside the existing free wood chipping collection.

Residents will be able to collect compost for free between the hours of 10am and 2pm on the last Sunday of each month.

CALL FOR 24-HOUR VALE TRANSPORT

PLAID Cymru candidate for the general election, Coun Ian Johnson, has called for the Vale to have 24-hour trains and buses in his response to the recently published Local Transport Plan, which sets out transport proposals until 2030.

He said that a 24-hour bus and train service, fully integrated as part of the South Wales Metro network, would help people working shifts, those needing to visit hospitals or those enjoying the region's night-time economy.

Coun Johnson said: "If we are serious about the South Wales Metro as a concept then it has to include 24-hour rail and bus transport

between major population centres.

Barry & Vale Friends of the Earth chair, Keith Stockdale, who met up with Coun Johnson, added:

"Friends of the Earth would like to see more active travel plans, promoting walking and cycling, in this Local Transport Plan, making these central to the plan.

"We would like to see better use of the land all along the railway in the south of the town. This could involve, for example, moving the current Barry Docks station westwards and having more land for the proposed bus-rail interchange, as well as making the station more relevant to Barry town centre."

Campaign cuts thefts

A CAMPAIGN to tackle shoplifting in Bridgend county and the Vale of Glamorgan in the run up to Christmas, saw a reduction in thefts at Maesteg and Barry, police report.

The campaign saw police officers making additional patrols in key areas, with officers working with shop staff to try to reduce the number of offences and detect more crimes.

Neighbourhood policing teams in Maesteg and Barry carried out operations to

combat shoplifting during the period December 1 through to January 12 and were supported by community safety partnership PCSOs to increase high visibility patrols on the streets and within shops and stores.

Police Sergeant Rob Lewis from Maesteg Police Station said: "The overall result for Maesteg was a 70 per cent reduction in shoplifting from last year. This was achieved through a high-profile presence, targeting known offenders and

regular liaison with store staff." During the campaign in Barry 26 people were arrested, 15 of whom were charged with theft while three people have already received fixed penalties or youth restorative disposals.

Residents will get their open space back in Barry

RESIDENTS in Aneurin Road, Barry, will see their open space restored – as part of a series of small improvement works carried out by the Vale Council.

The council conducted a survey to see how residents wanted the area to be managed and three quarters approved removing the shrubberies to create an open grass area.

Subject to weather and ground conditions, the shrubberies will be removed and the areas returned to grass by the end of February, a spokesperson promised.



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Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

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that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done. We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole."

Cloudy2Clear service the Vale, Bridgend, RCT and Porthowl areas and Phil is finding that his

approach is a major factor in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've

done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated."

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Phil a call for a free quotation on 0800 61 21 118 and he'll be happy to help!



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Emily takes her Vale seat in parliament!



Pictured are members of UK Youth Parliament from Wales – Emily Peters (Vale), Katherine Davies (Swansea), and Ted Simonds (Conwy) with Dr Hywel Francis MP and Lord Aberdeen.

ON Thursday, January 22, the UK Parliament hosted a special event in the Chapter House of Westminster Abbey to commemorate the 750th anniversary of the parliament called by Simon De Montfort, which met from January to mid-March 1265.

Forty members from both Houses of Parliament, representing the whole of the UK, as well as their respective representatives from the UK Youth Parliament, were present.

They included

Emily Peters, from the Vale of Glamorgan.

The de Montfort parliament was the first time that representatives of both towns and shires were summoned simultaneously to discuss matters of national concern, something which ultimately paved the way for the emergence of the House of Commons.

The towns and counties were once again summoned to Westminster Abbey Chapter House, where they met together for the first time since the de Montfort parliament met on January 20, 1265.

Politicians go head-to-head at Arms Park

THE National Assembly's rugby team will take on the House of Commons and Lords at Cardiff Arms Park at 2pm on February 6, just hours before the England-Wales match.

The teams will contest the 9th annual fixture to raise money for Bowel Cancer UK, with Assembly Rugby seeking their fourth consecutive win over their rivals.

Assembly Rugby will be represented by Leader of the Opposition, Andrew RT Davies AM, and the Ynys Mon AM, Rhun Iir Iorwerth.

The Commons and Lords, meanwhile, will include Secretary of State for Wales, Stephen Crabb, the Vale of Glamorgan MP, Alun Cairns, and the Rhondda MP, Chris Bryant.

Assembly Rugby chairman, Andrew RT Davies AM, said the game was about promoting good causes and urged members of the public to go along and support the "real"

Wales team.

"Over the years, the team has raised more than £10,000 for Bowel Cancer UK and I am proud to be involved.

The annual fixture against the Commons and Lords is always the most anticipated, but ultimately it is about promoting good causes and raising awareness of the work that Bowel Cancer UK do.

"The Assembly team was set up in 2006 by Glyn Davies, who was an AM at the time.

"Glyn overcame bowel cancer and wanted to raise awareness of the illness and personally demonstrate how survivors could go on to lead a full and active life after being so ill. I think that's a message we can all support," he said.

"On behalf of Assembly Rugby I would also like to thank Cardiff Blues for making the stadium available to us.

"I hope that we can deliver the people of Wales the first of two great victories over England on the day!"

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We said goodbye to Archie on Monday, March 23, but our support for Brad, Lauren and Jack didn't stop there. To find out more, watch our video at www.tyhafan.org/leaveagift.

Archie has left his mark on all of us at Tŷ Hafan in so many ways. You can also leave your mark right here in Wales.

Once you've remembered your loved ones, please consider helping Tŷ Hafan with a gift in your Will.

All our services are provided completely free of charge to families that need us, which is why your support is so important. One in five of the children we support is cared for thanks to gifts in Wills.

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Out and About with The GEM

J.C. Chandor's Most Violent Year falls just short of greatness...

THE writer and director JC Chandor made a name for himself with his excellent debut feature *Margin Call*, and then by taking screen icon Robert Redford and plonking him on a boat, adrift and with no dialogue, in the terse *All Is Lost*.

With two successes under his belt, hopes and expectations are high for his third feature, *A Most Violent Year*.

Set in New York city in 1981, it tells the story of Abel Morales (Oscar Isaac), a businessman determined to do things

the right way to create an empire and provide for his wife Anna (Jessica Chastain) and their children.

However, Abel's expansion plans are caught up in an outbreak of violence and danger and, despite his noblest intentions, he may have to play dirty to make his dreams come true...

JC Chandor's two previous films have directly or indirectly referenced the 1970s films that placed conscience and narrative weight above all else; *Margin Call* was a cautionary tale of excess and the impact it has on those both at the centre of the maelstrom and those who rely on those at the centre of it, while *All Is Lost*'s

casting of Robert Redford was a nod, knowing or otherwise, towards the driven, charismatic characters the actor played in that decade, and then stripping away the layers in a tale of man versus the elements.

A Most Violent Year similarly wears its debt to that decade; even though it's set in 1981, the aftertaste of the 1970s is felt throughout. The stereotype of the 1980s that many films use as a calling card (greed and avarice predominant) are here but in a much rawer form.

This is a story of a man battling against those elements, ostensibly trying to find himself drawn into shady dealings and battling against being forced to make the compromises that will leave him no better than his rivals.

Chandor's script is tight and dense; this is a film that takes its time to tell its story, allowing for the nuances of the characters to form, the weight of events to really take hold. Some have labelled this Chandor's *Godfather*, and though there are some vague similarities present (innocent forced onto the shady side of the tracks to help himself and his family), it doesn't cut that close.

Oscar Isaac and Jessica Chastain offer restrained and powerful performances; he is a good man but weak, trying to do what is best but always seems half a step in the wrong direction, while she is quietly powerful, a Lady Macbeth figure who is the real power behind the throne.

Their relationship is well drawn and convinces, and the pair's performances are wonderful to boot, with Isaac (to further push a *Godfather* comparison) channeling a young Al Pacino in his ability to hold the screen.

While there are wonderful turns around the lead pair from the likes of Albert Brooks and David Oyelowo, the most engaging supporting turn comes from Elyse Gabel as a delivery driver who is attacked; his subplot is



by
GARETH JAMIESON

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superbly realised, and hits the emotional notes that are lacking elsewhere.

That is one thing that does feel like a shortcoming of the film; even though the stakes are high, there is little emotional engagement. You want Abel to succeed but you don't feel the pull, Chandor keeping you at arm's length, while as the film slowly winds towards the climax, save for a moment of real tension, Abel's problems never escalate to something palpable – when you think Chandor may pull the rug from under you, it stays exactly where it is.

These faults aside, *A Most Violent Year* has plenty of pedigree and quality behind it; the performances and script are rich and satisfying, the direction muted and gritty. If Chandor had pulled it all together at the end it would have been a most excellent film – as it is, it's a most engaging one, falling just short of greatness.

VERDICT: Another successful effort from writer/director JC Chandor, who shows ambition in this sprawling work, *A Most Violent Year* is well-made and sees wonderful work from Oscar Isaac and Jessica Chastain. A slightly fudged conclusion tempers the praise, but this is still an engaging work. *Enjoyable.*

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *The Yards* (2000), *Summer of Sam* (1999).

See more reviews and news at hindsightfilmsblog.blogspot.co.uk.

What's on, and where in your area...

Wargamers' event

PENARTH & District Wargamers are holding 'Crusade 2015' on Saturday, January 31.

The event will be held at Cogan Leisure Centre, Andrews Road, Penarth (CF64 2NS).

Traders, demonstration, participation games, displays, bring and buy, refreshments, free parking and charity raffle supporting BLESMA.

Doors open at 10am, adults £4 and concessions/children £1. Contact Ian Richards, email: crusade@penarthwargames.co.uk; www.penarthwargames.co.uk.

Rummage sale

A RUMMAGE sale will be held in the All Saints' Lesser Hall, Victoria Square, Penarth on Saturday, January 31 from 10am until 11.30am. Entry 50p (to include tea/coffee). Plenty of bargains for all. All proceeds to charity.

Valeways guided walks

ON February 1, Valeways will guide a walk to Dr Salmon's Wells at 2.30pm; meet at Penllyn Castle opposite entrance (SS 973760). ON Tuesday, February 3, Hoffi Cerdded, Hoffi Coffi meet at Coffee Cove Cafe, Barry Island at 10am.

ON Wednesday, February 4, the Coffee Shop Strollers meet at the visitor centre, Cosmeston Country Park, Penarth at 10.30am.

Toy and train sale

BARRY Toy and Train sale will take place on February 1, 10.30am to 3pm in Barry Leisure Centre, Greenwood Street, Barry, CF63 4RU.

Organiser Chris Dyer said: "Barry attracts a great range of traders from both sides of the Severn Bridge and a wonderful array of stock is always available from all the big names such as Dinky, Corgi, Matchbox, EFE, Tri-ang, Hornby, Lima, Wrenn, Bachmann, etc."

"In the current economic climate, prices have never been keener and it is an ideal time to build up collections at budget prices."

Telephone 01643 702757 or 07966 694579; www.chrisdyerfairs.co.uk.

Free tax advice

TAXHELP for Older People (TOP) will offer free advice to older people on a restricted income at Roz Couzens' Chiropractic Surgery, Unit 4, Commercial house, Commercial Street, Llantwit Major CF61 1RB, on February 2 from 10am until midday.

No appointment is necessary. To access the TOP's helpline, telephone 0845 601 3321, or 01308 488066. Home visits can also be arranged via this helpline for people unable to attend the surgery.

Volunteer sessions

BRIDGEND Association of Voluntary Organisations (BAVO) will be at the Let's Garv office on the High Street in Pontycymer on the first Tuesday of every month, starting February 3 from 10am – 12.30pm to give details of volunteering opportunities.

For further details, call BAVO on 01656 810400, or visit www.bavo.org.uk.

Putting Families First

PARENTS, grandparents and carers in Barry who look after children aged 0 – 11 years, are invited to attend a free coffee and cake information session in Barry to find out more about a local community programme aimed at families.

Run in partnership with the Vale council-led Putting Families First and Barry Communities First, it will provide opportunities to take part in courses to support a child's learning. There are also a range of activities on offer, such as relaxation, jewellery making and coping with stress.

This free session will take place at The People Centre, 3 Dunlin Court near Thompson Street on February 4 (1pm – 3pm).

For more information, telephone 01446 709432, or visit www.BarryCommunitiesFirst.org.

Luncheon club

A Barry Communities First Luncheon Club takes place on the first Wednesday of every month for those aged 55 and over on February 4 (12pm – 2pm), at Parkside Christian Centre, St Bride's Way, Barry.

For £2.85, they will receive a two-course meal and bingo with prizes.

Contact 01446 709432 or www.BarryCommunitiesFirst.org.

Harry Potter book night

ON February 5, the first ever Harry Potter Book Night will be celebrated worldwide, and Penarth

Library and Griffin Books will be co-hosting a special evening of wizarding activities for children (suggested age range 7 – 12) at the library from 5.30pm – 7.30pm.

Young wizards, witches and muggles will be treated to an evening of games, activities, readings and quizzes including a Harry Potter fancy dress competition, readings from 'Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone', face painting and glitter tattoos, wand making and a fiendish Harry Potter Trivia Challenge.

Tickets for the event are free and available in advance from Griffin Books (tel 02920 706455) and Penarth Library (02920 708438).

Art society

ON Thursday, February 5, Cowbridge Art Society welcomes Claire Smith from the National Museum of Wales who will give an illustrated talk on the lives and work of Augustus and Gwen John.

These are usually very informative and interesting occasions, accompanied by a powerpoint presentation.

The society meets on Thursday evenings at the Old Hall, Cowbridge (7pm – 9pm). Visitors and new members are welcome. For details of the society's activities, see www.cowbridgeartsociety.com.

History lecture

COWBRIDGE History Society's next lecture on Friday, February 6, at 7.30pm in the Lesser Hall of the Town Hall, Cowbridge, is 'Penttyrch and the Garth: a light hearted local history study,' by Don Llewellyn. All are welcome!

Scout jumble

THE 1st Dinas Powys Scout jumble sale takes place at 1.30pm on Saturday, February 7, at the Scout Hall, Highwalls Road, Dinas Powys. Admission 50p.

Candlelit concert

SUNDAY, February 8, will see this year's candlelit concert at St Donat's Church by singers and musicians from Atlantic College.

It begins at 4pm and a varied programme will be offered. Tickets £5, on sale at Nickleby's bookshop in Llantwit Major and on the door. The annual event will raise funds for the upkeep of the 11th century church.

Shadows Club

FEBRUARY 10, Penarth Conservative Club, Stanwell Road (02920 309979), South Wales Shadows Club, 8pm. All are welcome.

Charity coffee

AT All Saints' Church Hall, Porthcawl, on February 20 at 10.30am, there will be a coffee morning to support Cancer Research.

Tickets are available from Diane Jones on 01656 784762, or at the door; stalls and raffle.

Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D863.

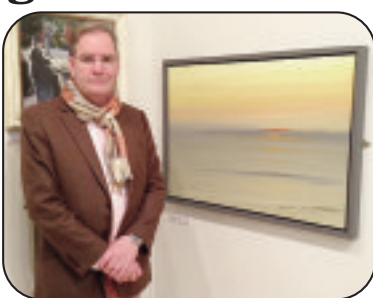
The Rollover, which now stands at £3,000, was not won this week.

• £2,000: 1630.	823636,	901084,
• 10: 195323, 571670,	665189,	181672,
413996,	319750,	964987,
645560,	463088,	546722,
229042,	558409,	596451,
342255,	861574,	780464,
794122,	334130,	787622,
647671,	104997,	127953,
463944,	194793,	423017,
704910,	718614,	792732,
287513, 254462,	788774,	838916,
• 5: 771528,	393648,	705249,
509682,	731462,	556759,
687888,	235374,	126013,
751729,	266030, 608115,	280362,
693780,	256984,	244408,
658582, 311181, 504036,	741501,	764890,
	839524,	621258,
	672739,	260464,
	320175,	682537,
	627089,	649567, 338543,
	351806,	462, 4, 1773,

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please telephone 029 2053 2300.

Local artist goes national!



LOCAL artist Nick John Rees (above) has again been successful in having his submission for The Royal Cambrian Academy of Arts 2015 annual open exhibition accepted.

Each year, artists are invited to submit work for consideration by the academy, which is the longest surviving artist-led organisation in Wales. All submissions

are judged by fellow professional artists.

The exhibition opened on January 10 and is a mix of the best contemporary fine art in Wales. Nick's work was featured in S4C's TV programme *Heno* which was screened to coincide with the opening event.

Based in Sully, he regularly exhibits locally and further afield and in recent years has seen his paintings added to both private and public collections all over the world.

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So sad council voluntary merger is rejected

IWOULD like to begin by wishing everyone a belated happy new year. I would dearly like to wish everyone a prosperous new year, but it is abundantly clear that austerity will remain and the financial issues facing central, regional and local government will continue.

Last month, I indicated it would be good to review what has happened in the Vale of Glamorgan Council during our term in office and I had intended to dedicate this and further columns to those issues and review what has happened in the council.

However, when writing my last column the cabinet had agreed the submission of an expression of interest in merging with Bridgend Council on a voluntary basis in line with a request from Welsh Government.

Since then a meeting of full council ratified

that decision, the expression of interest was submitted and we have been waiting for a decision by Welsh Government on those proposals, which we had hoped would have been on January 5.

On Tuesday (January 27) I received a telephone call from the Minister informing me that our submission was unsuccessful.

I was told the reason for this is because it was not compliant with the requirements put forward by the Williams Commission, which based a merger of authorities on health footprints contained within the 'Map'.

If there are no further changes to the 'Map' by Welsh Government in the future, the recommendations of the Williams Commission to merge the Vale Council with Cardiff Council will be Welsh Government's way forward.

I have always made perfectly clear my opposition to the recommendation of the Williams Commission to

merge the Vale Council with Cardiff Council. I stand by that opposition. I am still convinced the recommendations are flawed and have no option but to continue to take the same stance, despite this rejection.

The interests of our residents have been of primary concern to me throughout this process and this is why I am deeply saddened by the decision. In light of today's announcement, we will be considering what options are now available to the Vale of Glamorgan and how the needs of our residents can be best met.

We now await further developments from Welsh Government, as and when they are released, particularly if another White Paper is likely to be issued next week.

Bearing in mind Welsh Government's decision, this council will not be deterred in continuing our programme of work to benefit the people we represent. I had promised to review what we would be doing and I will do so from next month onward, but in the meantime, I will mention below some examples.

SCHOOLS INVESTMENT

We will be continuing our school investment programme and will shortly be reporting on the consultation we have had in relation to the secondary education provision in Barry.

This follows on from the successes at Cowbridge Comprehensive School, the Penarth Learning Community, and our decision to create a new Learning Community in Llantwit Major.

We have recently reopened the Eastern promenade at Barry Island. The work to regenerate the prom has been a great success and we have been astounded by the very positive reaction received. In the

VIEW FROM THE VALE



by Coun
NEIL MOORE
Leader of
the Vale of
Glamorgan
Council

next few weeks and months we will be continuing improvements to the rest of the promenade and gardens, and we will start work on the Western Shelter area too.

We were also very pleased with the 'Weekenders' events on the Island last summer and I am delighted to confirm that the 'Isle of Fire' event has been shortlisted in the 'Best

Small Event' category at the Wales Tourism awards.

The winner will be announced in March, so I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone concerned for creating these very positive, popular and amazing weekends.

While mentioning events, I cannot fail to also refer to the Christmas lights switch-on and the fact that it went viral on social media. Was this Wales' best Christmas lights switch-on? – I think it possibly was; so once again, a very big thank you to the organising team and the backup from our other staff who,

as always, make sure that the event spaces are cleared after these events take place.

We have also continued success in partnership with private sector partners. Work is continuing with the second road to the island through the Housing Consortium and work has begun on the redevelopment of the Pumphouse, again on the Waterfront.

I am very pleased that we can see the signs of our determination to make things come to fruition. On that front I am also pleased that at last we have made progress on the funfair site on the Island and I

am looking forward to working with these new private sector partners to revive this long awaited beachfront site.

As I indicated earlier, this is just a quick review of some of the areas where we are succeeding and I will continue this theme when I present the next column and also address any issues that arise in the meantime.

I will just finish by confirming my determination, that while the Vale of Glamorgan Council is here, we will endeavour to do the right thing for all our citizens, despite any distractions that come our way.



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'Funding level is unfair to Wales'

YOUR letters correspondent on the Barnett formula for Government funding for Wales ('Wales does well out of the Barnett formula', The GEM, January 15) either doesn't understand the basis of the formula, or has chosen to ignore it for political reasons.

The Barnett formula is a complicated calculation, taking into account the needs of different areas of the UK – and Wales has a history of heavy industry, poor health and disadvantage to take into account – as well as demands from difficult geography and areas of dispersed population.

It is grossly simplistic to say that Wales gets more per head than England, and so Wales isn't underfunded.

Wales needs more Government funding per head than England (as a whole) but the current formula still doesn't provide a funding level commensurate with the needs.

Even the author of the Barnett formula himself argued that the formula is unfair to Wales and should be revised.

I think your correspondent is "... wilfully ... misleading ..." your readers and not the Welsh Government as s/he claims.

John Drysdale,
Peterston super Ely.

'Don't isolate social housing'

IFEAR that Mr C Short (The GEM, January 22) has now become a NIMBBY (Not In My Back Yard) and would prefer that all the rich people move into Redrow's new £1/2 million houses in Colwinston – dumping them where there are no shops, no public transport, narrow and unpaved lanes, regular flooding, and sewage overflows.

With the Vale Conservatives in cahoots with Labour by agreeing to build on every field between Barry and Bridgend, why do we need our ineffectual planning department?

Scrap it! It would save millions, then cancel the draft gobbledegook LDP and

'Make Cardiff a hub airport'

ISEE that, quite rightly, people have been writing letters to The GEM with ideas about the future development use of Cardiff Airport, since it seems to have stagnated since being in public ownership.

I would like to add a suggestion:

In my view, Rhosee is an ideal location for a 'hub' airport where passengers land to catch connecting flights but do not leave the airport.

There is currently much opposition to the construction of another runway for this purpose at Heathrow, due to its location in a heavily-populated area.

We already have an ideal runway here, which is barely used, and where the approach and departure directions are either over the sea or

over countryside, so the disturbance from aircraft would be minimal compared to Heathrow.

The revenue in landing fees which a busy hub airport would bring to us, as the public owners of the airport, would be enormous.

In addition, the local employment provided by serving the needs of the aircraft and passengers whilst passing through the airport would also be huge.

There would also be the benefit of being able to avoid the expense of any great improvement in road and rail infrastructure to the airport – since there would be no significant increase in the number of passenger movements to and from the airport.

From the airlines' point of view, it doesn't matter where a hub airport is located so why not develop one at Rhosee as an alternative to Heathrow?

T Cox,
Barry.

Readers' Letters

Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor,
at Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or email gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

LETTERS AND E-MAILS MUST INCLUDE FULL ADDRESS
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An email address alone is not sufficient!
We will (in certain circumstances) protect a writer's identity, if requested.

'WE SHOULD ALL FIGHT INAPPROPRIATE DEVELOPMENT'

IWOULD like to point out to Paul Jeremy (GEM letters, January 22) that the people of Barry also love the beauty of the rural Vale. We are also suffering from the lack of an up-to-date LDP.

The rush of planning applications by developers and land owners hoping to make a quick buck is worrying for us all.

We have recently suffered the loss of a large chunk of ancient woodland at Pencoeitre, and have also seen White Farm turned into yet another bland housing estate.

The land that is now under attack is Green Farm and Walters Farm (also land at Brynhill).

These areas are not urban – the land at Walters Farm has one of the largest areas of neutral meadow grassland left in Wales. It is considered to be

of national importance. It is also home and breeding ground to many bird species on the endangered list.

It has roosting and maternity sites of endangered bat species – which are supposed to be protected by European law – but we shall see!

The ancient woodland is a site of special scientific interest.

The interest shown in upgrading Five Mile Lane is, in my view, suspect.

Development at Weycock Cross, plus an upgrade, will impact heavily on the villages of Bonvilton, St Nicholas and Peterston, as the traffic trying to escape the rush hour mayhem will be encouraged to take this direction.

The enormous developments on the Waterfront, with another 2,000 homes planned, ease pressure on the Vale's housing needs, but are causing increasing problems for the

residents of Barry as the traffic increases. The protesters in Barry are a polite bunch who have avoided the dirty tactics of nominating greenfield sites in other areas and have offered support to other communities.

We are fighting for the rural Vale – it's the bit where the countryside meets the town.

We are all united in our curiosity about Llandow and I feel we would be better served pushing for answers on this.

The possibility of a new and exciting development there would solve a lot of problems.

Instead of political posturing, a bit less 'not in my back yard' attitude could possibly get better results.

We should all be fighting against inappropriate development in the Vale, with a gentle reminder that Barry is also part of it.
Sue Eldridge,
Barry.

Dismay over planning applications

IHAVE read recently, with considerable dismay, a number of planning applications which have been submitted to the Vale Council, pertaining to towns and villages around the Vale.

In addition to the 390 houses planned for the enlarged plot at Darren Farm, there were 124

residences in Wick, 40 in Ystradowen and 10 in Llanmaes – just in The GEM of January 15 – and more had been published previously in Barry and Colwinston.

Also last week, there was an application for a link road between the A48 and the Llantwit Major road.

While such a road would be helpful in easing the traffic to come through Cowbridge, when heading for Llantwit

Major or the Llandough estate, the route chosen is somewhat worrying.

It comes close to an historic church building, and to the village of Llyswoimey. Where a link road is built, houses are sure to follow!

Farming is the largest industry in the Vale of Glamorgan, and with all this building, our green fields will disappear forever, and the Vale will no longer be an agricultural area.

Do we really want this?

I understand that Welsh Government policy was to minimise the taking of farming land and to avoid the

creation of an urban sprawl. How can our schools be expected to cope with the great influx of extra pupils?

And how will Cowbridge cope with so much extra traffic at peak periods – not to mention the parking problems we already have – in a small town which has lost its police station, its Post Office and most of its bus services?

If all this development goes through, the character of the Vale will be changed completely, to the detriment of us all.
Mrs L H Thomas,
Cowbridge.

Bus company chief replies

IWRITE in reply to the comment in last week's GEM readers' letters section, concerning my company's 303/304 service.

Having checked our on-bus tracker system I can confirm there is a slight problem with late running on this service – on average, the bus has been less than four minutes late over the last seven days.

We are making a number of further improvements to the route over the coming weeks, which will come into effect in the spring that will include adding additional running time

on this section of route to improve reliability. In the meantime, I have asked our bus operation team to monitor the journey on a daily basis and check if any short term improvements can be made.

Although we like our bus service to arrive on time, I fail to see how a bus service that operates on average four minutes late can be described as "shockingly poor" – especially at this time of year when driving conditions are generally poor, due to the weather.
Kevyn Jones, Cardiff,
Managing Director,
New Adventure Travel.

Extra housing will cause 'utter gridlock' in town

THE proposal for 390 houses to be built on Darren Farm to the north west of Cowbridge and the addition of over 1,000 people, will have a significant impact on the town

The benefit of the proposed link road to existing residents will be minimal, we have the A48 bypass.

Large numbers of people from the development will travel into Cowbridge to use its facilities. Surely this will be the reason most people will move there?

With the distance it is from the town centre, I cannot see many people walking.

The traffic problem will be exceptionally acute at peak times, rush hour, Saturdays and school start and finish.

Many more cars will travel through the town to the comprehensive school (it is already rather difficult to get through the town from 3pm). There will be utter

gridlock at the traffic lights from the extra residents.

These important transport considerations need to be looked at systematically as part of all the planning for the Vale, and such a significant development would be best placed in a settlement with rail links.

This is a huge greenfield site. There is a significant impact on the wider special landscape area and the harm to the character of the immediate area would be substantial.

I am a 38-year-old who loves the environment, loves walking, and enjoys the wildlife and landscape around Cowbridge.

I live with my parents and whilst I fully appreciate the need for affordable housing, please, please do not build over our fields; once they are gone we won't get them back.

Mr JA Hailes,
Cowbridge.

New homes are crucial to the local economy

IWOULD like to comment on the current debate about the proposed housing development at Darren Farm, just outside Cowbridge.

Is everyone in Cowbridge a NIMBY? It appears that if you can afford a house here, then you don't want any other houses on your doorstep.

The simple fact is that we are living longer and keeping our houses – the only way children can stay in Cowbridge and contribute to its

economy is if new homes are built.

New homes should go near shops and services – it is far more logical to build them close to Cowbridge than scattering them in the Vale's villages.

I hope the Vale Villages Together pressure group will support this application as it seems like a good solution – a school and a new road are being provided with the homes.

That seems to me to be a good idea.
Mr J. Lewis
Llantwit Major

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Sunday: 10.30am - 4.30pm

No merger for Vale and Bridgend as council plan is now back to square one!

by PHILIP IRWIN

THE proposed merger between the Vale Council and Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) is dead in the water after the Welsh Government rejected the plan.

Two other prospective 'happy couples' - Torfaen and Blaenau Gwent, and also Conwy and Denbighshire - were also told to call off their 'civil partnerships'.

The Welsh Government statement was short on detail, with

Leighton Andrews AM, Minister for Public Services, saying: "I am not persuaded that any one of these expressions of interest sufficiently meets the criteria for moving ahead to prepare a full voluntary merger proposal".

He went on to say that the proposals had to prove themselves better than "our full preferred map (Williams Option 1)".

That option sees Bridgend join with

Neath Port Talbot, and the Vale merge with Cardiff.

Mr Andrews added another reservation, saying: "We also needed to have confidence that authorities would be able to develop comprehensive merger proposals by June 30, 2015".

Coun Neil Moore, the Leader of the Vale Council, said: "The interests of our residents have been our primary concern and this is why I am deeply saddened by the decision of Welsh Government."

"In light of today's announcement, we will be considering what options are now left available to the Vale and how the needs of our residents can be best met."

Vale MP Alun Cairns said: "This is a real egg on face moment for the Vale Council and Welsh Government. The local authority was encouraged to agree with a merger with Bridgend, and did so enthusiastically."

"The Welsh Government has now thrown it back, and from the outside it looks shambolic. I had always considered it odd to have had the prospect of decisions affecting the Vale being made from as far away as the Ogmore and Garw valleys - it makes no sense."

"What is of great concern is the cost of all this. I have written to the Welsh Government to determine how much money has been wasted on walking the local authorities up the hill, only to then march them down again. It is chaos."

For BCBC, Council Leader Mel Nott OBE said: "This is extremely disappointing news. We felt that we had put forward a strong argument for exploring a potential merger with the Vale area, and believed that such a

move would have delivered the most benefits and advantages for the people of Bridgend county borough.

"We are already developing partnerships with the Vale Council, and held that a merger to the east would have enabled us to contribute to and benefit economically from the development of the Cardiff Capital Region, as well as maintaining momentum in educational improvements and ensuring geographical alignment with many other public services in the area."

"However, we must reluctantly accept the decision of the minister, consider our options in light of the announcement and look towards the Welsh Government for further guidance over the future of local government in Wales."

South Wales Central AM, Andrew RT Davies, said the Welsh Government's plans were now "in disarray".

He said: "This decision is good news for residents of the Vale, but the proposal was deeply flawed from the start."

"I remain deeply concerned that local authorities have been forced to consider inappropriate options because of the significant threat of financial penalties for those who refused."

"It is vital that we get clarity from the Welsh Government on the next steps for local authorities. Equally important though, it is high time that we had a proper discussion about the shape of local government in the future."

"To date, no one has outlined what services will be delivered under the new structure or indeed what role, if any, will be played by town and community councillors."

Welsh NHS in firing line after Monday cancellations

by PHILIP IRWIN

ARGUMENTS over the state of the NHS in Wales flared up again this week after Cardiff and Vale health board cancelled all non-urgent outpatient appointments in the University Hospital of Wales and Llandough Hospital on Monday (January 26).

Andrew RT Davies, the Leader of the Welsh Conservatives said: "I have been contacted by several patients from Cardiff and the Vale who have arrived for appointments this morning, with no notice that they had been cancelled."

"It's totally unacceptable and demonstrates the pressure that health boards are under because of Welsh Labour's failure to plan properly for the winter period."

Alice Casey, the chief operating officer at Cardiff and Vale University Health Board, said: "Due to extreme pressures on our services, Cardiff and Vale University Health Board has taken a number of extraordinary measures today in order to safely manage patient care."

"All available staff are being directed to help manage this situation. Unfortunately, it has been necessary to cancel and rearrange a number of elective and outpatient activities."

"Non-urgent outpatient appointments at the University Hospital of Wales and

University Hospital Llandough are cancelled today, with the exception of cardiac, dermatology, haematology, mental health clinics, ophthalmology, dental, children's clinics, thoracic and fracture clinics."

"Those patients receiving care on a day-care basis in haematology, rheumatology, children's, cardiac and neurology will continue as planned."

Mr Davies said: "For local residents who rely on these hospitals for their treatment, these cancellations will be extremely concerning and it's high time for the Welsh Labour Government to admit that there is a crisis in the Welsh NHS."

Speaking later in the day, Alice Casey added: "We would like to thank all members of the public in bearing with us today after the decision to cancel and rearrange a number of elective and outpatient activities."

"This decision was made due to the number of patients, presenting as emergencies with complex needs requiring a high level of care. Therefore, our priority has been to look after these people."

"Demand on our services remains extremely high but we are able to confirm that all appointments for the rest of the week will continue as planned."

"If anyone is unsure about their situation we encourage them to contact us on 02920 748181 for help."

WIs celebrate!

THE National Federation of Women's Institutes is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year and the Glamorgan Federation started their celebrations in style last week by holding two lunches at The Aberavon Beach Hotel, Port Talbot when 380 members from 38 WIs attended.

They were treated to a demonstration of floral art from Mrs Daphne Furneaux from Llanddewi with Knelston WI in Gower.

Daphne is an NFWI tutor for floristry and flower arranging and a judge. At last year's Chelsea Flower Show she gained a silver gilt medal. All who attended the lunch are looking forward to the rest of the year's festivities. These will include a commemorative service at Llandaff Cathedral and fashion shows in Swansea.

JE

VALE of GLAMORGAN



BRO MORGANNWG



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VALE OF GLAMORGAN Building Excellence Awards 2015



BUILDERS and developers who use the building regulation service of the Vale of Glamorgan Council, will be attending the 12th Building Excellence Awards dinner, organised through the council's Building Control Group at The Vale Resort Golf Club, Hensol on Friday, January 30.

Nominations for the awards are made by the council's Building Control surveyors, who are responsible for the supervision of the projects as they progress on site, through to completion of the work.

Coun Fred Johnson, Cabinet Member for Planning and Transportation at the Vale of Glamorgan Council, stated:

"This is the twelfth successive year of the Building Awards, and I have great pleasure in giving recognition to builders and developers who are determined to provide a high-quality, customer-orientated service.

"The nominations go to show, yet again, that there are several excellent examples of high-quality construction projects that have been undertaken within the Vale of Glamorgan.

"Ensuring that buildings are constructed in accordance with current building regulations requires a very high standard of workmanship, and the builders nominated this year have proven that they can meet this requirement.

"I hope we continue to build upon the success, when our nominations represent Wales and go forward to The National Awards, in London, as a finalist."

KEY ROLE

Marcus Goldsworthy, Operational Manager for the Development and Building Control Group, commented:

"Building Regulations have a key role whenever you decide to make alterations, extend or construct new buildings. With recent changes to the planning process and devolution of Building Regulations to the Welsh Assembly, reducing carbon emissions and improving performance and energy efficiency is at the front of the development process.

"Everyone has a part to play in conserving energy and reducing carbon emission – whether we are homeowners seeking to extend our homes, or developers taking forward a major new scheme.

"Changing the way we construct buildings to make them more sustainable, will be a big challenge for all involved in the industry".

The Development and Building Control Group falls within the council's development services department, and its Head of Service, Rob Thomas, stated:

"Development of any size has a major impact on the day-to-day lives of persons who are undertaking building projects. Ultimately, it is the builder who has the major responsibility in satisfying, not only the customer's needs, but also of meeting the terms of the legislation.

"The Building Awards will provide all those involved with well-deserved recognition for consistently carrying out work of a high standard."

THANKS

The council would also like to thank all the sponsors of this event, without whom it would not be possible to recognise the builders and developers whose quality of work is making a positive difference to the environment of the Vale of Glamorgan.

Sponsors are: Nina Estate Agents from Barry, ACD Skip & Recycling from Bridgend, The Vale Resort, Hensol, Greenbuild Consult, Durisol, Jewsons, and The Glamorgan GEM.

Winners of the Vale of Glamorgan event will go forward to the LABC South Wales Building Awards dinner which will be held at the Vale of Glamorgan Golf & Spa Resort, Hensol, on April 17. Host is Owen Money, the vocalist is Dave Bowen, and it will help to raise funds for Cancer Research.

The ultimate achievement is recognised at national level. Winners of the All Wales event will be nominated for the LABC National Building Awards, which will include nominations from most of the local authorities throughout Wales and England in London next November.

CRITERIA REQUIRED:

- **Compliance with Building Regulations and energy efficiency**
- **Supplying and managing information (giving of notices and information relative to the work)**
- **Speed of fault rectification**
- **Site environment, safety and storage of materials (so as not to be detrimental to their use)**
- **Client/customer satisfaction**
- **Sustainable and technical Innovation.**
- **Access for people with special adaptations**
- **Small Domestic, Housing and Commercial projects**



THE 2015 VALE OF GLAMORGAN BUILDING EXCELLENCE AWARDS ARE SPONSORED BY



VALE OF GLAMORGAN BUILDING EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2015

EXTENSIONS/ALTERATIONS

FIRST FLOOR EXTENSION TO BUNGALOW

Address:

**ROXBURGH LODGE,
12A PLYMOUTH ROAD,
PENARTH**

Agent: **1010 Architects**

Contractor: **Phil Harris**

The existing bungalow was a single storey, monopitched ranch-style property in the local conservation area.

The architect and builder have

created a timber-framed extension to provide bedrooms and bathrooms on the first floor.

The renovation also included a make-over of the ground floor accommodation, to create space more usable for modern living.

The completed scheme has resulted in a modern house with a contemporary feel.

The external facades have been clad with a combination of zinc and cedar cladding.



LOFT EXTENSION inc. ALTERATIONS TO FRONT & REAR DORMER, BALCONY, PORCH AND EXTENSION AT REAR



DEMOLITION AND RE -CONSTRUCTION OF GARAGE, FORMATION OF NEW EXTERNAL DOOR/WINDOW OPENING TO EXISTING DWELLING AND MINOR WORKS



Address: **93 PLYMOUTH ROAD, PENARTH**

Agent/Contractor: **Logic CPS Ltd** working with **Chris Loyn Architects**

The proposal was to modify and extend an existing period dwelling, using modern materials – such as large panel glazing.

The existing side and rear elevations at ground floor level have been removed, with the first

floor supported on a structural steel frame with steel piers. An additional glass walled and glass roofed annexe has been added, to give the rear of the building a very light and airy feel.

The glazing systems used are of high quality, ensuring an outstanding thermal performance.

The rear garage has been transformed with opaque glazing to the garden elevation, which can be changed at the press of a button.

Address:

**21 ROBINSWOOD CLOSE,
PENARTH**

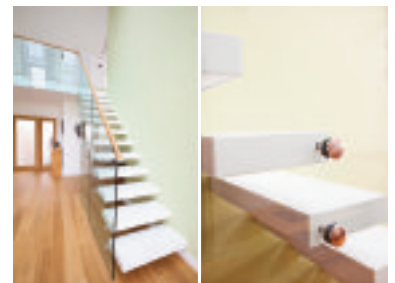
Agent: **AD Hoc Designs Ltd**

Contractor: **AD Hoc Designs & Building Ltd**

The proposal is to extend an existing 1960s-style bungalow by the addition of first floor dormers to the front and rear, and a side extension.

This has opened up the interior to provide a large, rear kitchen living space leading to the hallway, which features a floating white-treaded, bespoke staircase and glass balustrades.

The finished project has enhanced the existing features and added a very modern, open plan 'feel' to the building.



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EXTENSIONS/ALTERATIONS

EXTENSION AND ALTERATIONS



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Address:
**8, LLANDAFF
CLOSE, PENARTH**

Agent: **1010
Architects**
Contractor: **S. J.
Builders**

The proposal was to extend an existing 1960s-style bungalow and realise its full potential. The extension consists of a new study, utility and garden room.

The first floor has an additional en-suite bathroom. The remainder of the layout has been remodelled to give the building an open feel, with improved views of the rear enclosed garden.

The builder has kept in contact with Building Control throughout the



scheme, which has been necessary with the need to underpin part of the existing garage that had inadequate foundations.

The building has been finished to a high standard, giving the owners a remodelled property with a modern twist.

Address:
ADERYN, NURSTON
Agent/ Contractor:
Mr. Mike Guthrie

This is a visually impressive, two-storey extension to a rural property. It comprises a spacious, open plan roof structure, supported by a

glulam ridge beam and a first floor balcony.

In addition to the extension works, the contractor implemented flood protection measures, and re-used the existing stonework of the demolished extension to create a bespoke-style boundary wall.

Fulfilling the conditions of the planning approval, also resulted in the contractor having to undertake substantial temporary support work for the existing roof structure. This was followed by the construction of a complex roof design.

The contractor demonstrated a clear ability to overcome these issues and has produced a build of exceptional quality.

TWO STOREY EXTENSION



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EXTENSION AND ALTERATIONS TO ROOF SPACE



Address:
**ST MICHAELS, DYFFRYN,
ST NICHOLAS**

Applicant:
The National Trust

Agent/Contractor:
**Martin Davies, Nathan
Goss, Peter Bricknell**

The site is on the Dyffryn Gardens Estate: the two-storey stone building has been used as an

estate office for a number of years.

The proposal was to add another office at first floor level over the existing stairway. Due to the nature of the site, and its close proximity to the main Dyffryn House, it was decided to install feature elevations and a pinnacle roof.

The builder, who specialises in conservation schemes, has produced an outstanding addition, to create an unusual building to modern requirements

VALE OF GLAMORGAN BUILDING EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2015

CONVERSION CATEGORY

BARN CONVERSION INTO HOLIDAY LETS

Address: **HIGHLIGHT FARM, HIGHLIGHT LANE, BARRY**

Applicant/Contractor: **Mr Chris Lakin**

Agent: **Steve Sidford c/o**



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EPT Partnership, Cardiff

THIS nomination follows the conversion of an historic barn into two self-catering holiday accommodation cottages.

The project involved reclaiming stone and timber from the site, and reducing the overall carbon footprint, while maintaining the rustic feel of the cottages.

Both cottages were insulated to a standard which was over and above the energy efficiency required by building regulations.

The cottages also benefit from underfloor heating and dedicated bike storage facilities.



Stunning views of the Dyffryn Valley are provided by the inclusion of aluminium-framed

bi-folding doors, providing access to cantilevered steel frame balconies.

CONVERSION OF STABLES AND EXTENSIONS



Address: **WILLOW COTTAGE, TREOES**

Applicant/Contractor:

Mr Colin Anstee

Agent: **Christopher Williams Design Services**

This scheme involved the conversion of an existing stable block, together with a single and two-storey extension, to create a new dwelling.

Built of cavity wall construction, the entire building has been clad with local reclaimed stone and

brick quoins to produce a property of such character and detail.

Internal accommodation includes four bedrooms with en-suite bathroom to the main bedroom, large open plan family room, and kitchen.

An ornate stone staircase complements the remainder of the detailed build. The owner/builder maintained good contact with Building Control throughout the project, to produce a quality building.

NEW INDIVIDUAL DWELLING

NEW DWELLING

Address: **TY COCH FARM, DROPE LANE, ST BRIDES SUPER ELY**

Agent: **Richard Whitaker**

Contractor: **Lee Ford**

The scheme consists of a new three -storey house on an infill plot in the village of St. Brides Super Ely.

The property includes lounge/ dining area, family room, games room, gymnasium and pool, five bedrooms at first floor level. It has an open aspect



created by the large hallway and feature staircase.

During the build, an additional conversion of the second floor was discussed

and agreed with the onsite BCO and through good liaison, a suitable solution was concluded. This is a well-constructed property of a very high standard.



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NEW DWELLINGS

NEW INDIVIDUAL DWELLING

Address: **AFRYN HOUSE, COWBRIDGE**

Agent: **1010 Architects**

Contractor: **WRW**

This new dwelling, submitted in full plans format, was to replace a sub-standard bungalow previously situated on the site. Severe planning restrictions regarding the ridge height of the new dwelling, necessitated significant ground works and mass excavations to formation level.

The timber-framed building incorporates an independent 'granny annexe' set to the one side of an impressive entrance hallway. It includes all accommodation expected of such a unique dwelling. It is heated via a bio-mass boiler with underfloor heating, and is finished to an extremely high standard. This is a dwelling of much substance and well worthy of the nomination.



NEW DWELLINGS



Address:

TURKEY STREET, LLANTWIT MAJOR

Applicant/Contractor:

Kent Property Services

Agent: **Chris Edwards c/o Evolution**

This site was formerly occupied by a local service station/garage with associated forecourt and petrol pumps. Prior to construction, the underground petrol storage tanks were removed and soil analysis tests carried out, to ensure that the ground was not contaminated. Construction then proceeded with the two new individual dwellings, and the conversion of an existing property, suitably extended to produce a third dwelling. Site constraints provided the developer with many logistical problems, which were overcome, to produce three quality dwellings. The developer ensured health and safety aspects were complied with, and kept in constant contact with building control at all stages of construction.

NEW DWELLINGS

Address: **SCHOLARS VIEW, TOWNMILL ROAD, COWBRIDGE**

Applicant/Agent/Contractor:
Taylor Wimpey South Wales

This project involved the demolition of the lower school buildings to Cowbridge Comprehensive School and the erection of 21 new residential homes, with six being of low-cost, affordable units.

The site constraints created many logistical problems for the construction team, but with consideration and co-operation of local residents being paramount, the site was completed with minimal disruption.

The contractors maintained contact with Building Control throughout all stages of construction, and ensured constant compliance with their health and safety regime, to produce a development of an extremely high standard.



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NEW DWELLINGS

4 NO. 2 BEDROOM DWELLINGS

Address: **OLD FARM MEWS, DINAS POWYS**

Agent: **Hoole & Walmsley Architects**
Contractor: **Brickflair**

The split-level houses erected on a derelict site in the centre of the village of Dinas Powys. were initially built for

the architect and her family. Consequently, the standard is extremely high, as there has been continuous site supervision by the architect, building control, and LABC warranty inspectors. The resultant properties are both modern in their design, and mirror the colours and material of the existing buildings in the village.



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Address: **YSGOL NANT TALWG, BARRY**
Applicant: **Vale of Glamorgan**
Agent: **Stride Treglown**
Contractor: **ISG**

This new school building has been tailored to meet the needs of its users, as well as achieving high standards of thermal efficiency and fire safety.

It has been designed to meet the requirement in Wales for BREEAM – with 'excellent' EPC 'A' rating – and constructed to achieve a 40% improvement on current Building Control minimum insulation u-values.

In addition, the model school building has been provided with an efficient M&E design, photovoltaic roof panels and a full sprinkler fire protection system.

From the beginning, the contractor delivered a high standard of site safety and

established an integrated partnership on health and safety with the campus headmaster and staff.

A meaningful bilingual traffic management plan that improved the existing systems, was implemented within the site, HSQE audits were carried out on a weekly basis and the contractor actively participated in site safety discussions with pupils and staff.

Throughout the scheme, the contractor demonstrated a highly professional and competent approach and has delivered a first rate project that is a worthy inclusion in this year's nominations.



NEW SCHOOL AND RESPITE UNIT

Address: **PENARTH LEARNING CENTRE, ST CYRES ROAD, PENARTH**

Applicant: **Vale of Glamorgan**

Agent: **HLM Architects**

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Contractor: **Leadbitter Bouygues**

The proposal is to provide a new super school for the Vale of Glamorgan, which comprises a mainstream building and SEN school linked at levels 2 and 3. Each school operates independently from one another, creating a state of the art comprehensive.

The mainstream school is a three-storey building (level 1-3). It comprises teaching classrooms, sports hall, main hall, offices, reception, plant, storage kitchen, IT server rooms and WCs.

The SEN school is a two-storey building (level 2-3) and has similar



facilities to the mainstream unit – but all-purpose built for the use of special educational needs students.

There is also a two-storey Respite accommodation building on site, to provide facilities for both students and carers.

VALE OF GLAMORGAN BUILDING EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2015 LABC SITE SUPERVISOR OF THE YEAR

This award recognises a specific person, rather than an overall company. Nominations should be for a site manager who has stood out by going above and beyond the call of duty, to ensure an outstanding working relationship with the local authority.

Specific criteria - Evidence of a good working relationship with LABC surveyor; evidence of build quality and control on site; evidence/examples of technical awareness, good communication and management of safety; evidence of particular issues or problems resolved by the site agent; references/comments from building control or other development partners to support the nomination.



ROB BOYD
ISG
Ysgol Nant Talwg, Barry.



STEVE JAMES
SG BUILDERS
for various projects.



STEVE NORTHAM
TAYLOR WIMPEY
Scholars View, Cowbridge.



VALE OF GLAMORGAN BUILDING EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2015 THE SPONSORS

GLAMORGAN GEM

THE Glamorgan GEM is proud to once again co-sponsor the twelfth annual Vale of Glamorgan Building Awards.

As the Vale's most widely-distributed weekly newspaper, we are committed to supporting the community as a whole, and local businesses in particular.

As such, it gives us genuine pleasure to publicly acknowledge their professional achievements – and what better way to do this than through these prestigious Vale of Glamorgan Council awards?

The nominees listed in this special supplement had to fight off formidable competition to get this far and they can be justifiably proud of themselves.

The GEM, too, is pleased to play its part in honouring this Vale success story.

Recognition must be given to Jan Irving, who has co-ordinated the awards supplement for The GEM for twelve years.

Caroline Attya, General Manager

A JEWSON LOT MORE

WITH over 600 branches across the country, Jewson is the UK's leading supplier of sustainable timber and building materials.

The first Jewson branch opened in 1836 - for over 176 years we have been supplying building materials and supporting the trade.

Jewson offers the widest range of quality materials and products from everyday core essentials to the latest sustainable innovations - Jewson's friendly and knowledgeable staff continue to provide the highest levels of customer service.

In addition to timber and building materials, Jewson also has specialist landscaping, joinery, insulation, tool hire, brick, kitchen and bathroom centres up and down the country.

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NINA Chivers has been operating as an estate agent since the 1990s, and over the years has earned a reputation as one of the most innovative and well known independent estate agents in The Vale.

Nina Estate Agents Ltd have a sales and lettings office that operates in the most fashionable, desirable and sought-after areas.

We offer a range of services that extend well beyond simple sales and lettings, such as property management, refurbishment advice and regular up-to-date feedback on the progress of your property listings.

We also believe in supplying our clients with current information to ensure that they are able to make the best decisions possible.

We appear regularly in local newspapers such as The Glamorgan GEM, all portals and our Facebook page.

All of our sales and letting agents undergo regular in-house training to ensure that they remain on top of movement in the property market.

In addition, Nina Estate Agents Ltd conforms to all of the regulations and guidelines as

outlined by the industry's regulatory bodies (NAEA), so you can rest assured that we are an estate and letting agent that you can trust.

ACD SKIPS

ACD Skips is a family-run company that was set up in Bridgend as a one-lorry operation in 1993.

The company has grown in size quite considerably and has overcome many hurdles, due to the vast changes in Environmental legislation and waste policies.

It currently runs a fleet of waste collection vehicles with its own maintenance facility, and operates a materials recycling centre at premises on Brynmenyn Industrial Estate, Bridgend, which is a central base with easy M4 access.

The company is progressive, is open to any new waste reduction initiatives, and actively pursues new waste recycling ideas.

It continues to source waste streams to recycling end-users. Understanding the requirements of its customers, together with good service, remains a top priority.

THE VALE RESORT

THE Vale Resort will be strengthening its conference facilities even further in 2015 as Hensol Castle opens its doors to the business market from April.

The Vale Resort offers conference suites designed with today's business clientele in mind and can cater comfortably for 10-700 delegates with a choice of 11 multi-functional business suites.

In 2014 the resort was privileged to host the players for the Seniors Open Golf Championships, heads of state from three countries for the NATO Summit and Real Madrid for the UEFA European Super Cup and are proud to be home to the Wales Rugby team, Cardiff City FC and Cardiff Blues RFC.

Hensol Castle, a unique grade I listed stately home, will offer a new purpose-built Courtyard Hall to cater for 320 delegates theatre style and 200 banquet style. This will be complemented by four smaller conference rooms in the castle itself that can host between 60-120 delegates per room theatre-style.

The resort leisure facilities include 143 luxuriously appointed bedrooms, 2 championship golf courses, Wales' largest spa, award winning dining, and exceptional sporting facilities. Add to this, ample FREE parking, WIFI, easy access off the M4 – and it's easy to see why the Vale Resort is the ideal location for business and for pleasure.

DURISOL UK

DURISOL UK are proud to be sponsoring the Vale of Glamorgan 2015 awards.

Durisol are manufacturers of an ICF system which is a safe reliable alternative to traditional brick, block and timber-frame. The system can be built by both commercial and self-builders, which lends itself naturally to the Jewson relationship.

Jewson's are one of the largest chains of British general builders' merchants and are huge supporters of local builders in the area, as well as selling to small and medium building contractors and the general public.

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Councillor Howard Hamilton,
Mayor of the Vale of Glamorgan
Council, wishes every success to
the nominees for the
Vale Council's Building Awards.



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THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL • CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990 Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Wales) Order 2012

Development that may affect a Conservation Area/ Datblygu a allai effeithio ar Ardal Gadwraeth

Application No./ Rhif y cais:	2014/01493/FUL
Proposal/Cynnig:	Erection of two detached dwellings Plot 1 and Plot 2, River Walk, Cowbridge
Location/Lleoliad:	Cowbridge
Conservation Area/ Ardal Gadwraeth	
Application No./ Rhif y cais:	2015/00057/FUL
Proposal/Cynnig:	Proposed kitchen extension to existing dwelling and proposed detached garage/store/family room to rear garden (in place of existing garage)
Location/Lleoliad:	Glen Cottage, 39, Eastgate, Cowbridge
Conservation Area/ Ardal Gadwraeth	Cowbridge

Listed Building Consent/Caniatâd Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No./ Rhif y cais:	2014/01121/LBC
Proposal/Cynnig:	Repair and replace single glazed windows with double glazing windows to match existing design and colour (Green/White) repair or replace external doors - some with S/G inset Panels with matching design and colour (green/White) - some with D/G Inset Panels. Replace Porch (mo.1) - Double Glazed to match existing
Location/Lleoliad:	1-6 Cottages, Church Row, Pendoylan
Listed Building/ Adeilad Rhestredig	Grade II
Application No./ Rhif y cais:	2014/01359/LBC
Proposal/Cynnig:	Installation of CCTV camera and associated power feed
Location/Lleoliad:	Eastern Shelter, Eastern Promenade, Barry Island
Listed Building/ Adeilad Rhestredig	Grade II
Application No./ Rhif y cais:	2015/00052/LBC
Proposal/Cynnig:	Illuminated new signage
Location/Lleoliad:	4, Westgate, Cowbridge
Listed Building/ Adeilad Rhestredig	Grade II

Affecting setting of a Listed Building/ Cais (au) sy'n effeithio ar leoliad Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No./ Rhif y cais:	2014/01521/FUL
Proposal/Cynnig:	Covered double garage set within garden topography with green roof
Location/Lleoliad:	Penybryn, Pen y Lan Road, Aberthyn
Listed Building/ Adeilad Rhestredig	Affecting Penybryn, Grade II

Application(s) of General Interest/ Ceisiadau o Ddiddordeb Cyffredinol

Application No./ Rhif y cais:	2014/01401/OUT
Proposal/Cynnig:	Proposed residential development on land to the north and south of Leckwith Road, (including land at Leckwith Motor Company) and associated ancillary works
Location/Lleoliad:	Leckwith Motor Company, Leckwith Road, Llandough, Penarth
Application No./ Rhif y cais:	2014/01490/FUL
Proposal/Cynnig:	Installation of ground mounted photovoltaic solar arrays to provide approximately 5MW generation capacity together with power inverter systems; transformer stations; internal access track; landscaping; deer fencing, CCTV and associated access gate.
Location/Lleoliad:	Llandcadle Farm, Llandcadle

May affect a Public Right of Way/ Gall effeithio ar Hawl Tramwy Cyhoeddus

Application No./ Rhif y cais:	2014/01424/FUL
Proposal/Cynnig:	Change of use of agricultural land to residential development (C3) including the development of 124 residential dwellings, public open space, landscaping, highway improvements and associated engineering works.
Location/Lleoliad:	Land off St. Brides Road, Wick

Departure from Development Plan/ Gwyo o'r Cynllun Datblygu

Application No./Rhif y cais:	2014/01401/OUT
Proposal/Cynnig:	Proposed residential development on land to the north and south of Leckwith Road, (including land at Leckwith Motor Company) and associated ancillary works
Location/Lleoliad:	Leckwith Motor Company, Leckwith Road, Llandough, Penarth

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Five-vehicle M4 collision ends up with 28 people taken to south Wales hospitals

A five vehicle collision took place on the M4 on Saturday, January 24, and 28 people were taken to hospital.

The incident took place on the eastbound section of the motorway just before midday near junction 34. It involved a coach with people from the Maesteg area heading to the Millennium Centre in Cardiff.

One casualty was airlifted to hospital and 27 others were taken by ambulance to a number of hospitals in south Wales.

A Welsh Ambulance Service spokesperson said staff received a call at 11.50am.

"We were called to reports of a multi-vehicle road traffic collision on the M4 near junction 34. We responded with six emergency ambulances, five 'high dependency service' vehicles, two rapid response vehicles, an

by GEM REPORTER

advanced paramedic practitioner, two patient care service vehicles, a doctor and two helicopters.

"There were 38 patients at scene, 28 of whom were taken to hospitals, including the Princess of Wales Hospital, the Royal Glamorgan Hospital, the University Hospital of Wales and Prince Charles Hospital.

Tracy Myhill, chief executive of the Welsh Ambulance Service, said she and the trust were proud of the staff who were involved in dealing with the incident.

She said: "Their professionalism is a credit to the service."

The Fire Service used cutting equipment to get casualties out of vehicles and staff also gave first aid.

A police spokeswoman said that most of the casualties were classed as 'walking wounded'.

"Six of them were more serious although none are believed to be life threatening or life changing.

"The bus is understood to have contained people from the Bridgend area travelling to Cardiff to see a show.

"A further collision occurred in the westbound carriageway at the same location a few minutes later where a vehicle towing another vehicle overturned. There were no injuries in this collision.

"Delays were encountered in both directions as the collisions were dealt with."

The police spokeswoman also made this appeal: "Anyone who witnessed the collision involving the bus who have not already given their details to police is asked to contact South Wales Police on 101".

African Children's Choir is welcomed to Senedd by AM



Jane Hutt AM, Graham Ellis and the African Children's Choir.

DYFFRYN STAFF IN BIG PORTHCAWL BEACH CLEAN-UP!

DYFFRYN GARDENS staff are cleaning up Coney beach in Porthcawl this week - to help celebrate 50 years of the successful coastline campaign 'Project Neptune', and get ready for the thousands of day-trippers and holiday-makers this spring and summer.

Project Neptune was launched in 1965 and is the National Trust's longest running appeal. It raises funds and helps to look after more than 740 miles of coastline in Wales, England and Northern Ireland. So far, the campaign has raised over £65 million. The task was the brainchild of a gardener at Dyffryn Gardens, Dan

Stanforth, who regularly visits the beach to surf: "I try and do some litter picking before work, but it's amazing how quickly the litter builds up. Besides being unsightly to visitors to the beach, it is also harmful to the bird and animal species that live here, so we wanted to do something about it."

The Dyffryn team will be at Coney Beach in Porthcawl on Friday, January 30 from 10am to 1pm, and are asking residents to lend the team a hand, or just to say hello.

Anyone wanting to get involved in future projects should email dyffryn@nationaltrust.org.uk for more information

THE African Children's Choir visited the Senedd during its trip to Wales and were welcomed by Jane Hutt, the Vale AM, and the First Minister, Carwyn Jones.

Graham Ellis, who organised the choir's visit, accompanied the children to the Senedd, who later performed at a concert at St David's Hall Cardiff. The children all came from Uganda, where Jane Hutt lived as a child.

Airline Links up Cardiff Airport

UK REGIONAL airline, LinksAir, operator of the north-south Wales air-link between Cardiff and Anglesey has announced a new daily weekday Norwich service from Cardiff Airport, commencing on April 20.

LinksAir will commence the new daily service on weekdays, with competitive air fares from just £59 one-way, including all taxes and charges.

The Cardiff-Norwich service will depart Cardiff Airport at Rhosce at 10:20am each morning, arriving at Norwich Airport a little

over an hour later at 11:25am, saving over four hours on existing rail or road journey times.

"With a well-timed 2:20pm return service (1.20 pm on a Friday), this new air-link will allow significant time and cost savings on the current difficult cross-country journey so many have to endure," said Spencer Birns, aviation and business development director at Cardiff Airport.

"It is great to see LinksAir adding new routes from Cardiff and taking advantage of the opportunity to connect Wales even further.

"Norfolk and the East Anglian region will appeal to both business and leisure customers, as well as bring visitors in to Wales."

CHOIRS OF BARRY CONCERT

THE Mayor of Barry, Coun Jeff Evans, invites the public to a Choirs of Barry concert on Friday, February 27 at St Mary's Church, Holton Road, Barry at 7pm.

The concert will feature Barry Male Voice Choir, Barry Ladies' Choir and Barry Choral Society. Tickets, £5, are available from Barry Town Council, 7 Gladstone Road, Barry CF62 8NA. For more information, contact 01446 704921, or email juliehurst@barrytowncouncil.gov.uk.

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The Vale of Glamorgan Council VARIOUS ROADS, CARDIFF AIRPORT (VARIOUS PROHIBITIONS, RESTRICTIONS AND LIMITATIONS TO VEHICLE AND PEDESTRIAN MOVEMENTS) (ANTI-TERRORISM) (TEMPORARY) ORDER 2015

1. On the 29th January 2015 the Vale of Glamorgan Council in exercise of its powers under Sections 14(1) and 22C of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and of all other enabling powers made an Order the general effect of which is as described in the Schedules below.

2. The Order will come into operation on the 30th January 2015 and a copy of the Order may be seen at the address shown below during normal office hours.

3. If you wish to question the validity of the Order or any provisions contained therein on the grounds that they are not within the powers conferred by the above Act or on the grounds that any requirement of the same or that any instrument made under it has not been complied with in relation to the Order, you may within six weeks from the 30th January 2015 apply to the High Court for this purpose.

Except as provided by this Order:

No person shall proceed on foot or cause or permit any vehicle or cycle to proceed, stop or wait at any time, in the location specified within the Schedule below.

SCHEDULE

Location	All roads between the roundabout where the airport access road meets the A4226/B4265 and the junctions where the two airport access roads meet Port Road.
Reasons	Footpaths (Public Rights of Way) Penmark No's 9, 9A, 10, 15, 21, together with Restricted By-Way known as Penmark No 18 throughout their lengths
Duration	From 18.01 hours on 30th January 2015 for a maximum period of 18 Months.
Alt Route	The diversions for south east bound traffic will be from the roundabout adjacent to the Aircraft Maintenance Facility, then in a south easterly direction along the A4226 to the roundabout at the junction with Port Road then in a south westerly direction along Port Road, to the Airport and vice-versa.
	None for footpath closures.

Dated this 29th day of January 2015

M. E. Punter
Director of Visible Services & Housing
Vale of Glamorgan Council
The Alps, Wenvoe
CF5 6AA



Cyngor Bro Morgannwg 2015 GORCHYMYN (GWRTHDERFYSGAETH) (DROS DRO) (GWAHARDD CERDDWYR A CHERBYDAU A CHYFYNGU AR EU SYMUDIADAU) FFYRDD AMRYWIOL, MAES AWYR CAERDYDD 2015

1. Ar 29 Ionawr 2015, yr oedd Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, gan arfer ei bwerau o dan Adranau 14(1) a 22C Deddf Rheoli Traffig 1984 a phob pŵer galluogi arall, wedi gwneud Gorchymyn y mae ei effaith gyffredinol wedi'i disgrifio yn yr atodleni isod.

2. Daw'r Gorchymyn i rym ar 30 Ionawr 2015, a chechweld copi ohono yn y cyfeiriad isod yn ystod oriau swyddia arferol.

3. Os hoffech ddadlau'n erbyn dilyswydd y Gorchymyn neu'i ddarpariaethau am na chredwch fod gan y ddeddf uchod bŵer i'w gweithredu, neu am y tybiwch eu bod wedi methu â chydymffurfio â gofynion y ddeddf uchod neu un o'i hofferynnau, bydd gennych chwe wythnos o 30 Ionawr 2015 i wneud cais i'r Uchel Lys i'r diben hwnnw

Ac eithrio fel y darperir drwy'r Gorchymyn hwn:

Ni fydd unrhyw un yn cerdded nac yn perri nac yn caniatáu i gerbyd na beic symud, stopio neu aros yn y lleoliad a bennwyd yn yr Atodlen isod.

ATODLEN

Lleoliad	Pob ffordd rhwng y gylchfan lle y mae ffordd fynediad i'r maes awyr yn cwrdd â'r A4226/B4265 a'r cyffwrdd lle y mae'r ddwy ffordd fynediad i'r maes awyr yn cwrdd â Port Road.
Rhesymau	Llwybrau Troed (Hawliau Tramwy Cyhoeddus) Pen-marc rhifau 9, 9A, 10, 15, 21 a'r Ffordd Ddidramwy Gyfyngedig a adwaenir fel llwybr Pen-marc rhif 18, ar eu hyd.
Cyfnod	Diben y gwaharddiadau a'r cyfyngiadau hyn fydd un ai osgoi, lleihau ynteu lleihau'r posibilrwydd o berygl mewn perthynas â therfysgaeth (fel y'i diffinnir yn Adran 1 Deddf Terfysgaeth 2000).
Llwybr arall	O 06.01pm ar 30 Ionawr 2015 am 18 mis ar y mwyaf. Bydd traffig sy'n teithio tua'r de-ddwyrain yn cael ei ddargyfeirio o'r gylchfan ger y Cyfleustra Cynnal a Chadw Awyrennau, i gyfeiriad y de-ddwyrain, ar hyd yr A4226 hyd at y gylchfan wrth y gyffwrdd â Port Road. Bydd y symud ymlaen wedyn i gyfeiriad y de-orllewin ar hyd Port Road, i'r maes awyr. Bydd traffig o'r cyfeiriad arall yn dilyn yr un llwybr yn union ond o chwith.
	Ni fydd llwybr amgen ar gyfer defnyddwyr y llwybrau troed a gaewyd.

Dyddiedig 29 Ionawr 2015

M. E. Punter
Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau Gweladwy a Thai,
Cyngor Bro Morgannwg,
Canolfan yr Alpau, Gwenvo
CF5 6AA



Happy with the council – as it is!

ONCE again, our elected masters in the Westminster Parliament and now in Cardiff, are treating our counties and councils in Wales like some giant chess set!

The ultimatum from the Assembly to the Welsh Councils is, to merge voluntarily or "else we will do it for you"!

In the 40 years I have lived in Cowbridge, I have 'belonged' to Glamorgan, South Glamorgan and Vale of Glamorgan. In that time, Cowbridge has been administered from Pontypridd, milked by Cardiff to build the Barry, and now run from Barry.

I am happy with the way the Vale Council operates now. Maybe because it can flip flop between an elected Labour or Conservative administration, it keeps our councillors on their toes.

It is viable, self-contained, a well-run

'Merge with Cardiff – and not Bridgend'

WHAT on earth has possessed the Vale Council to think its residents want to merge with Bridgend?

They have been told by the majority that merging with Cardiff is the preferred option.

The council has never been good at listening to what residents want or don't want, and dismiss our views as irrelevant to the cause.

I would love to have been a fly on the wall to hear the discussions, especially the private conversations between

'Whatever happened to moral principles?

AT the end of World War Two, a minority of the population shared the vision of the PM, Clem Attlee, that we should create a totally different kind of society.

It would be based upon the ideals of universal health care and full employment, rather than return to the unjust economics and society of the 1930s, which was the intention of those who benefited most from that.

Full employment had been an essential part of the nation's response to war, so Attlee thought decent citizens might recognise this chance to build a society based on principles.

However, Labour was voted out of power at the next election – to embrace once more, the British class divisions of the 1930s.

organisation, and has won various awards for its services over the years. It does not need to merge with anyone.

Any ratepayer who thinks a merger will reduce their council tax, only needs to look back to previous changes to dispel that idea.

Would our AM, Jane Hutt, like to take the message back to the Assembly: "If it isn't broke don't mend it"?

If she can't do this, then perhaps explain to us (because no one has yet!) where VoG are going wrong and how a merger would benefit those who pay the piper without calling the tune!

I have heard, second-hand, that the idea is to save money on the reduction in the number of councillors and on the administrations.

Is it a just a coincidence that our Masters want to increase the number of Assembly Members, enlarge the Chamber, and award themselves an inflation-busting pay rise?

HT Hailes, Cowbridge.

'Merge with Cardiff – and not Bridgend'
the Vale and Bridgend on the matter.

Once again, Vale residents have been dismissed and stitched up by the council because in their view we do not count.

This matter should have gone to a vote – it's the residents who should have been given the choice – not those who were supposedly elected to do right by us.

They can't do right by their employees from what I hear, judging by the number of people who have supposedly lost their jobs to contractors.

Anne Usher, Barry.

'Whatever happened to moral principles?'
What is interesting is the complete change in the popular culture since that time, whereby the very notion of founding the national economy upon any form of moral principle, such as full employment, or any other ideal, such as honesty in commerce, has no appeal to the great majority of voters.

Mostly, the citizens are obsessed with personalities, rather than principles, but their method of measuring human life is largely based on money. "Where is the money to come from?" they ask, as if they did not know that presently it is grossly wasted on oligarchs.

If Attlee were with us today, the ideals which inspired his life would find no echo in the beliefs of today's population, who absorb their values from the TV screen.

C N Westerman, Brynna.

Readers' Letters

Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, at Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or email gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

LETTERS AND E-MAILS MUST INCLUDE FULL ADDRESS AND A CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBER

IMPORTANT: We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. An email address alone is not sufficient! We will (in certain circumstances) protect a writer's identity, if requested.

'Obstacles in the way of recycling'

WITH the announcement of the closure of all small recycling banks in the Vale of Glamorgan, I and others find it very hard to take on board the pathetic excuse that these facilities are being abused by the public and fly tippers in particular.

Where on earth do we get these people from? They pride themselves on their ability to make so-called sensible and economical decisions, when in actual fact, they contribute to the major problem of fly tipping in the first place.

Half the time these recycling banks are full to overflowing because they do not collect from these sites often enough. When they have closed them down, there is obviously going to be increased fly tipping elsewhere, in country lanes and by the roadside.

If there are fly tippers guilty of tipping at these recycling banks, then that is a good thing and not a bad thing – because at least the authorities will be aware of where to clean up, rather than sending a lorry at taxpayers' expense to places like the picnic area on the Five Mile Lane each and every time they get a complaint from these areas (which will increase a hundredfold after the closure of recycling banks).

This will cost them thousands of pounds more than if they kept these banks open.

They should make it known that you can deposit any form of recycling at these banks, instead of the antiquated system of permit-only at recycling centres. Some tradesmen, for example, will not take

'Scrap the Police Commissioner'

ONCE again, we are to see a five per cent rise in the cost we pay for our local police force – which is above inflation and will hit our pockets.

When you think of the costs for the Police Commissioner and his staff, isn't it time we scrapped this post and gave the job to the Welsh Government?

Surely, it would be much better to spend the money directly on frontline policing. So how about all the political parties promising to scrap these costly jobs at the next election?

Coun Richard Bertin, Barry, Independent, Vale Council.

'Take action over NHS problems'

CARWYN JONES AM in his recent article was trying to defend the indefensible against the onslaught from Westminster, where Tories are slating him and his Labour-led Government for the state of our NHS here in Wales.

I certainly don't hold any liking for Cameron or his Tory Government, but on this issue he is right. Under Carwyn Jones and Mark Drakeford, our NHS in Wales has gone back to the dark ages.

We have our own doctors and nurses writing to newspapers

informing us of the dire straits and the pressures they are under due to lack of funding.

In one paper today, there is a headline stating that A&E times at Welsh accident and emergency hospitals are the worst since records began. The Welsh Government's target for people to be seen within four hours is 95 per cent, yet it is barely reaching 81 per cent.

At the UHW, the figure is 74.5 per cent; at the Princess of Wales Hospital it is even worse. It's no good throwing more money at the NHS, it's much too late, the damage has been done, thanks to Labour Government incompetence.

DJ Radford, Barry.

their items to the centres because they have to pay to deposit their items of no further use at these recycling centres.

The tradesmen then dump this stuff all over the Vale, leaving the council to clean up at a considerably higher cost than if they allowed the tradesmen access to the recycling centres free of charge.

It beggars belief that in an age where we are all being educated on the benefits of making a greener planet by maximum recycling of our unwanted goods, that we get obstacles put in our way which prevent us from doing what is Government advice.

I can assure readers that each time I see evidence of fly tipping anywhere in the Vale, I will personally report it by the hour until it is removed. They say that recycling banks are costing too much money, they should look at the money they waste on schemes like refurbishing council chambers and the money wasted on council staff/officials exit packages, (over £3.5m in a four year period).

We, the humble council taxpayers, have to foot these bills and then suffer cuts to essential services, such as recycling bank closures and library closures etc.

Barrie V Evans, (Coordinator, Barry First Group, Barry Voice, FocusBarry Supporter).

Visitors' view of development plan at Darren Farm

WE visit your shores on a regular basis for holidays and often make Cowbridge our base to visit various parts of the UK.

We love the fact that Cowbridge is an outstanding historic market town, with great charm and character, currently unspoilt by huge housing estates, unlike many equivalent English market towns.

It is with dismay that we heard recently of the planning application to build 390 houses at Darren Farm on the outskirts of the town.

Our concern is that this proposal would destroy a beautiful greenfield site and marvellous views to the west of Cowbridge, thus potentially establishing a precedent for further development.

It would be a travesty to rob this unique market town of its special

character, especially as we understand there are alternative brownfield sites in the Vale, with established rail links.

In addition, as parking is already at a premium in Cowbridge, the development would add significantly to traffic and parking congestion, which would undoubtedly impact on residents and visitors alike – not to mention pressure on services.

We hope your readers will take our concerns into consideration and take the time to make representations to the council, opposing the said development, before the February 5 deadline.

We believe the quickest way to do this is to visit the 'Save Darren Farm' website, or write to Mr M Goldsworthy at the dock office, Barry, quoting planning reference 2014/01505/OUT. **Matthew and Tara Busch, Los Angeles, California.**

Price stability?

THE Bank of England Governor wants to "... ensure price stability by bringing inflation back (up) to 2 per cent". Words change their meanings, but he could clarify "stability" by saying that effectively he wants to make all weights and measures smaller by 2 per cent a year.

R Bradshaw, Cowbridge

The GEM is attacked – for printing article in Welsh!

'WRITER DOES NOT SPEAK FOR THE MAJORITY'

I WAS really surprised last week to read the letter from an anonymous writer taking The GEM to task for printing articles in Welsh, on the basis that it was "pandering to a minority".

In a world where so much unhappiness is being caused by intolerance, it is really saddening to discover intolerance on our own doorstep.

My only consolation is that I do not believe the writer is correct in asserting that theirs is the majority opinion.

Although more people in Cowbridge speak English, it does not follow that they are anti-Welsh language.

I have discussed the article with a lot of English-speaking friends over the last few days, and not a single person has supported the writer's views.

As a Welsh person who does not speak Welsh, it makes me very proud every time I hear Welsh spoken in Cowbridge, to know that the language is thriving and growing – and I certainly don't feel alienated.

When I saw the Welsh feature in The GEM, I was genuinely pleased that another opportunity was being given to promote the Welsh language.

I would also like to point out the inaccuracy of the statement that "it is no surprise that many are now moving away to secure better education, better paid jobs and a better lifestyle." Now?

Is the writer unaware of Welsh history and current demographic trends?

Pupils go where the courses they want to study are offered. With a smaller number of

higher education establishments than England, it has always been the case that a lot of our students move away to study.

How gratifying then to discover that Cardiff University has just jumped from 35 in the University League Tables to 23 – an unprecedented change.

At secondary and primary school level, Cowbridge has enviable education provision. My friends living in London have nearly all put their children in private education because of the difficulty of securing a place at good schools – yet great education is something we take for granted in Cowbridge, and is a primary reason new families move here.

The writer is right to state that people move away for better paid jobs to places like London and the home counties; but I moved to London for a better paid job 35 years ago, so what's changed?

Isn't it equally true that people move to London from the West Country, the north-east, and other parts of England – yet they're not escaping the Welsh language.

However, it is the last assertion about a better lifestyle that raises a smile and proves the writer has no credibility. Cowbridge and the Vale of Glamorgan nears the top of the polls every year for best place to live in Britain. Fact.

My English husband urged us to move back to Cowbridge from London to give our family a better lifestyle.

He was right. Hir yn byw y iaith Gymraeg (am hoping I got this right as I used a translation app).

Long live the Welsh language!
Eluned Moran, Cowbridge.

'Don't blame Welsh for the nation's ills'

THE dinosaurs of Cowbridge have woken early this year. The GEM is a valued newspaper for all the citizens of the Vale.

There are seven Welsh medium primary schools (one of which is in Cowbridge) and a Welsh medium comprehensive school serving our county.

Welsh as a second language is taught in all the other primary and secondary schools, as required by the Government of Wales. It appears that the

person who wrote to you anonymously would like people who are Welsh speaking not to spend their money shopping, eating and drinking anywhere in Cowbridge. How bizarre!

And no, dear anonymous letter writer, the Welsh language cannot be blamed for the state of the economy, etc.

It is the policies of the central Government in London that have got us into the mess you describe.

D Gareth Evans, Y Barri.



'Support Fairtrade' BUSINESSES URGED

AS part of Barry Town Council's pledge to make Barry a Fairtrade town, organisations and business owners are being encouraged to apply for the opportunity to be recognised for their support.

The Mayor of Barry, Coun Jeff Evans has already invited the Co-operative Shop (Colcot Road), St Mary's Church and Bryn Hafren

Comprehensive to the Mayor's Parlour to receive certificates to thank them for their efforts.

He is now looking for more organisations to receive the council's certificate of appreciation, to show they recognise the need to raise awareness of Fairtrade.

Contact Barry Town Council (01446) 704920 or info@barrytowncouncil.gov.uk to request an application form.

Cadoxton pupils' project will help STEM poverty

MINISTER for Communities and Tackling Poverty, Lesley Griffiths AM, visited Cadoxton Primary School in Barry last week to learn about the Club Innov8 project.

The Club Innov8 project, funded by the Welsh Government, teaches pupils the opportunity to learn about coding and programming using Lego, Mindstorms (using robotics), Kodu Game Lab and other educational resources.

The project is designed to encourage more pupils to learn about computer science and follow STEM subjects in school or in future careers.

Coun Lis Burnett, cabinet member for regeneration, said: "Employment is the best route out of poverty and is a key way in which we can regenerate communities. Schemes like Club Innov8 provide young people with skills that will improve their career prospects and by doing so make a significant contribution to improving their future lives."

Three other schools, Colcot Primary, Jenner Park Primary and Bryn Hafren Comprehensive, are also involved in the project.



Burns Night at Brynhill

RIGHT: Alec Fine, David Pereira and Archie.

A BURNS Night was organized by Brynhill golf club lady vice captain Liz Fine.

Scotch broth was the first course, followed by haggis, neaps and tatties. The haggis was piped in by Archie, and Alec Gray recited 'Ode to the Haggis', watched by the chef David Pereira.

Alec gave a reading of some of Robbie Burns' poetry and Liz - a junior Scotch champion in the 60s, gave us a demonstration of Scottish dancing. Kate Gray sang while playing the harp, a lovely combination.

Everybody was invited to dance and the evening finished with a



RIGHT: Liz Fine and Kate Gray.

sing-song of Scottish music accompanied by Liz Brown on the piano and David Fine on the guitar. 'Auld Lang Syne' ended a very enjoyable and entertaining night.



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'DARREN FARM PLAN SHOULD BE WITHDRAWN'

I WRITE in support of Mr Paul Jeremy's articulate and well argued letter in last week's GEM.

Your readers will be fully aware by now of the planning application for the development of 390 houses and a new highway from the A48 to the Llantwit Road. Objections to it must be submitted before February 5. These should be based on the widely available arguments presented by the Cowbridge and Llanblethian Residents' Group.

Should the link road be built - it would have to come first - the housing would be built over some years, depending on market conditions obtaining at the time. It is likely that contracts for the building of houses will be let to more than one firm: CEG are not housebuilders.

However much the designers can now demonstrate a unity of overall design, history of such large scale schemes shows that over a long

'Build in Barry or Llandow, not Darren Farm'

WHEN the last council elections were held in 2012, the Labour party pledged to 'scrap' the Local Development Plan (LDP).

This was replaced by their own LDP, similar in many cases, but with a significant difference in that there was a reduction in the proposed housing for Barry, balanced by an increase in housing provision for the rural Vale.

The largest of these was a new proposal for 390 houses at Darren Farm - an area where in 2003 the planning inspector appointed by the National Assembly rejected the appeal by developers to build 145 homes.

Many of the points raised in that inquiry are still valid: for example, the planning inspector considered that in the case of walking from the site "the centre is too far away and the gradients too steep for comfortable trips..." In effect, people will mainly drive from that area into Cowbridge town centre, adding to the existing traffic congestion and parking problems.

The Vale Council Planning Department vigorously opposed the original development at the planning inquiry and it will be interesting to see how they can now

support a development of almost three times the number of houses.

The Darren Farm site is in the 2013 Draft LDP which still has to be approved by the Welsh Government.

Unfortunately, the developers have submitted a planning application in advance of the decision. We are not happy with the proposals and will be objecting to this planning application.

At the 2003 appeal on Darren Farm, many individuals, including Jane Hutt AM, made representations against the proposals. We hope that they will join us in objecting to the latest plans for Darren Farm and also hope that many members of the public will make their views known.

There are also housing developments proposed in the LDP for many of the villages in the rural Vale which will change their character.

We believe that the Vale Council should therefore look at further building in Barry and reconsider the development of the brownfield site at Llandow, instead of threatening the countryside and communities.

Geoffrey Cox, Hunter Jarvie, Conservative members for Cowbridge ward, Vale of Glamorgan Council.

time period standards will vary.

In order to achieve the economies of scale required to show a satisfactory return on their investment, mass builders have to employ an industrial system of building. Economics dictate that such components have to be used regardless of geographical location and local styles of building.

In effect, the parts of the houses will be delivered on lorries and assembled on site. This estate will look like any other, part of what is called the 'no place realm', with little sympathy for historic Cowbridge.

What may now appear on paper as an attractive scheme, aesthetically speaking, in the fullness of time will probably deteriorate into the usual large peripheral estate of mass housing located on a windswept hill traversed by a high speed road and remote from the heart of Cowbridge.

I wrote initially opposing this development when it formed part of the Vale of Glamorgan's latest Local Development Plan, which it still does. However, this application is in advance of the approval of that plan.

What is it that motivates a successful local business to 'jump the gun' in this instance? If its case is a sound one - and clearly I do not think it is - what is to be lost by withdrawing this application and presenting the scheme as part of the LDP where it will be judged by the planning inspectorate?

Even if the current application is defeated, the scheduling of housing on Darren Farm land could, of course, remain in the LDP, which is what the Welsh Assembly Government wants so that its target for housing is met - anywhere and at any cost to local communities.

I urge the people of Cowbridge to oppose this application by writing to the Vale Council.

RJ Buswell, Cowbridge.

MYSTERY KEY

LAST Thursday, January 22, a lady left a key at our house, saying to my husband that my sisters and I knew all about it. Unfortunately we don't!

The key is marked 'Philip's key' on a rubber holder attached to a leather key fob marked 'Yldirim Kemer'. Somebody somewhere must now be wondering where their key is.

I have given my contact details to The GEM. Name and address supplied.

TO LET ON LICENCE

THE FOLLOWING GRAZING LAND IS AVAILABLE BY INFORMAL TENDER FROM 1st APRIL 2015 - 31st JANUARY 2016:

2.58 acres - opp. Manor House, Sully Road, Penarth

Closing date for receipt of completed Tenders is 12 NOON FRIDAY 6th MARCH 2015

Contact: Dean Lacey, Estates Section, The Vale of Glamorgan Council Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry CF63 4RU Tel: 01446 709335 Email: delacey@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk





Llwyn Y Gog, Rhose Point
5 Bedrooms and 3 Reception Rooms
Conservatory & Double Garage
Sea Views & Landscaped Garden

£324,950 C75



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4 Bed Detached Home
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5 Double Bedrooms
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£315,000 C70



Chris Davies




Redberth Close, Barry
2 Bedrooms
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£104,950 C71



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Modern Kitchen and Bathroom

£109,950 D60



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Beautiful Order Throughout
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£135,000 D60



Princes Street, Barry
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£550 PCM

Shakespeare Drive, Llantwit Major
Three Bedrooms
Modern Kitchen
Shower
C71 (Band C)
£650 PCM

Cwrt Newton Poole, Rhose Point
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Conservatory
Garage
D57 (Band E)
£725 PCM

IMPORTANT CHANGES for PRIVATE LANDLORDS!

Mandatory licensing in Wales will go ahead

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Woodlands Road, Barry
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Generous Rear Garden
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Broad Street, Barry
4 Bedrooms and 3 Receptions
Beautifully Presented Throughout
Ground Floor Cloaks & 1st Flr Bathroom

£167,950 C78



Porthkerry Road, Barry
3 Double Bedrooms, Extensive Plot - 140' Rear Garden
2 Receptions & Kitchen/Dining Room

£169,950 tbc



St Nicholas Road, Barry
3 Bedrooms & 2 Receptions
Garage and Parking Facilities
Well Designed and Well Proportioned

£182,000 E54



Pontypridd Road, Barry
3 Beds, 2 Receptions, Large Conservatory,
Stunning Presentation Throughout, Superb 75' Rear Garden & Much More...

£279,950 C71




Coldbrook Road West, Barry
6 Bedroom Detached (In 2 Houses),
Ideal For Multi-Generation Use,
Exceptional Hidden Plot & Parking

£435,000 F31



Maes Y Gwynyn, Rhose Point
4 Double Bedrooms
2 Receptions & Conservatory
Level Lawned Rear Garden

£257,500 C69



Havant Close, Rhose
First Floor Flat
2 Bedrooms
Off Road Parking

£85,000 B81



Station Road, Rhose
3 Bedrooms/2 Reception Rooms
Large 90 Foot Rear Garden
In Need Of Improvement Throughout

£145,000 G11



Ceri Avenue, Rhose
Renovated Extended Semi Bungalow
3 Bedrooms, 3 Bathrooms
Garage


£255,000 C72



Murlande Way, Rhose
3 Bedrooms & 2 Receptions
Exceptional Gardens & Views
Substantially Extended

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Parking for 4 Cars

£215,000 D64



Norseman Close, Rhose
3 Bedrooms, 2 Receptions
Backing Open Fields
Enclosed Garden, Drive, Garage

£159,950 C74



Lower Farm Court, Rhose
4 Bedrooms - Superb Order
Double Garage & Driveway
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Hockey 'A' team maintain unbeaten run...while seniors suffer heavy loss

PENARTH Hockey Club's Second XI maintained their unbeaten run into a sixth game with victory at home, but there was bad news for the senior team on their Davis Wood Hockey League travels.

PENARTH 'A' 3-2 WHITCHURCH 'G'

Returning to action after an enforced one-week break thanks to the recent cold snap, Penarth's 2nd XI entertained Whitchurch 'G' at Colcot Sports Centre looking to further extend a rare unbeaten streak stretching back to the fixture with Whitchurch 'F' in late November.

Able to field a strong side, featuring a blend of youth and experience, Penarth started the stronger with the industrious Nathan Townsend and wily Rob Harrison providing the link between defence and attack.

The cutting edge was missing up front, however, until Dave Watkins was introduced midway through the half, but the veteran immediately linked up with Rory Vizard to put the home side ahead.

Whitchurch refused to be bowled by falling behind, and increased the pressure on Penarth's goal, with the Bears grateful to have Jason Harris between the sticks as he frustrated

the visitors' best efforts to the interval. Penarth could have gone further ahead shortly before the break, only for Craig Llewellyn's penalty corner strike to be unwittingly deflected past the post by a defender.

Despite their opponents' lowly position in De Cymru 2, Penarth knew that they had to get quick goals in order to settle the game but, as has become habit, allowed the visitors' to get back on terms by conceding an early equaliser.

With Whitchurch earning a string of penalty corners, the next few minutes were nervy for the home side, before a double strike midway through the half appeared to put the game to bed.

Watkins added a second to restore the Vale side's advantage, before Penarth turned defence into attack as Llewellyn retrieved a stray ball deep in his own 25 and a quick series of passes set up Paul Thomas to double the margin.

Whitchurch refused to go quietly, however, and continued to put pressure on the home defence, pulling one goal back late on before veterans Graeme Jones, Paul Roberts and Zbig Sobierski went into lockdown mode.

A late penalty corner threat was nullified shortly before the final whistle sounded, giving Penarth a hard-fought 3-2 victory that confirms sixth spot in their division ahead of a string of

fixtures with higher-placed teams.

CARDIFF UNIVERSITY 'A' 5-1 PENARTH

Two high-scoring victories either side of the Christmas break saw Penarth's senior team head to Llys Tal-y-Bont in confident spirits, only to have the bubble burst by a well-organised Cardiff University side.

The 5-1 reverse made a dent in Penarth's recently-repaired goal difference, but the Bears remain seventh overall in De Cymru & The Marches 1, and still within touching distance of the top four with eight matches remaining.

With the 2nds taking a week off due to the odd number of teams in De Cymru 2, only the 1st XI will be in action this weekend, hosting a high-flying Hereford side that inflicted a heavy defeat on the Vale side earlier in the season.

Penarth Hockey Club always welcomes new, old and returning players, umpires, supporters, friends and helpers, regardless of age and ability. Training takes place on the artificial turf at Barry Sport Centre every Wednesday, with the juniors in action between 6-7pm and seniors between 7-8pm.

Further information can be obtained from club secretary Dave Stevens via: d_stevens81@hotmail.co.uk.

Ninja kids put on demo show



Three ninjas getting their first belt.

YOUNG students from Vale based Tae Kwon Do School, JSTKD Martial Arts and Fitness, put on a display for parents, family and friends as they helped to launch new classes at St Nicholas Hall, Barry on February 16.

The youngsters, aged from three to five years old, showcased the skills they have learned at 'Ninja Kids', JSTKD's programme aimed at the most junior group of budding martial artists.

Saturday's event saw a record number of children attaining their latest colour Ninja belts.

Visit www.jstkdc.co.uk for full details or call on 07711 234500.

VW

AM PRAISES SUPPORT FOR TY HAFAN CHARITY



Jane Hutt AM and the Aberthaw team with donations for Ty Hafan.

LAST week, Vale AM Jane Hutt met Aberthaw Power Station staff, who had collected 30 bags of donated

goods for Ty Hafan children's hospice.

She welcomed the donations and thanked the team for their support for this wonderful charity.

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Prospect Place £109,950 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ground floor apartment One bedroom Great location No chain CANTON	Ferry Road £129,950 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traditional Mid-terrace Five bedrooms Split into four flats CANTON	Somerset Street £104,950 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traditional end of terrace Three bedrooms In need of attention No chain CANTON	PUBLIC NOTICE <p>Property Address: 5 Windsor Court, Holmesdale Street, Grangetown, Cardiff. CF11 7HR. We are acting for the mortgagees in possession and have received an offer of £53,000 for the above mentioned property. Any interested parties must submit any higher offers in writing to the agent before exchange of contracts takes place. Allen & Harris 183 Cowbridge Rd East, Canton, Cardiff CF11 9AJ. T: 029 2022 2344</p> CANTON	High Street £99,995 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No onward chain Old Llantrisant village location Great investment opportunity Three bedrooms TALBOT GREEN	PUBLIC NOTICE <p>Date of Notice: 30th January 2015. By order of the mortgagees in possession we advise that an offer of £35,000 has been received for 72 High Street, Porth, Rhondda Cynon Taff. CF39 9AR. Any persons wishing to make an increased offer should notify the agents: Allen & Harris 83 Talbot Road, Talbot Green CF72 8AE. T: 01443 237667 or their best offer.</p> TALBOT GREEN
Teifi Drive £160,000 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Semi-detached family home Four bedrooms Two reception rooms Kitchen & utility room BARRY	Pontypridd Road £219,950 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Semi-detached dorma bungalow Four bedrooms Bathroom & Cloakroom Three reception rooms BARRY	Westgate Street £139,950 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 bedrooms First floor Balcony No chain PONTCANNA	Clydesmuir Road £94,950 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> End of terrace Two bedrooms • Lounge Kitchen • Bathroom Front & rear gardens No onward chain ROATH	Glyn Eiddew £124,950 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mid terrace • Three bedrooms • Downstairs WC Lounge & dining room Kitchen • Family bathroom No onward chain ROATH	Waterloo Road £329,950 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mid terrace Three bedrooms Downstairs WC Fitted kitchen & dining area Garage • No onward chain ROATH
Clos Alyn £159,950 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> End of link • Two bedrooms Spacious lounge • Fitted kitchen • Bathroom • Garage No onward chain ROATH	Heol Pentwyn £145,000 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mid terrace • Three bedrooms • Two reception rooms • Whitchurch School catchment • Requires modernisation • No chain WHITCHURCH	Bardsey Crescent £187,500 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Semi detached • Three bedrooms • Beautifully presented • Generous sized plot • Utility room • Open House 7th Feb 2.30 - 4pm WHITCHURCH	Lon Y Celyn £275,000 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traditional semi-detached bay fronted Three bedrooms plus loft room Wood block flooring Potential to extend WHITCHURCH	Whitefield Road GUIDE £200,000 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Semi detached Cul de sac position Three bedrooms Two reception rooms In need of TLC WHITCHURCH	River View £245,000 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attractively extended home Three bedrooms, loft room Generous kitchen diner Three further receptions Views over river, garage WHITCHURCH

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Bay fronted - end of terrace, two separate rec. rooms, conservatory. 3 bedrooms & family bathroom. Hobby area, enclosed rear garden, original black flooring, viewing essential.
£164,950**NEW**
ST NICHOLAS ROAD, BARRY
Mid terrace traditional, living/dining room, spacious kitchen/breakfast. WC cloakroom, 5 bedrooms, gas central heating, partial sea views, garage with lane access. Well presented. ER=D.
£214,950**NEW**
WOODLANDS ROAD, BARRY
Mid terrace traditional, original stained glass windows, original black & white flooring. 2 reception rooms, fitted kitchen, 3 bedrooms, gas central heating. NO CHAIN.
£144,950**SSTC**
WOODLANDS ROAD, BARRY
Period terraced property, spacious living accommodation, through living room, sitting room. 4 double bedrooms, enclosed rear garden, original features throughout. NO CHAIN.
£162,500**NEW**
GEORGE STREET, BARRY
End of terrace, refurbished traditional, living room, spacious kitchen/diner. 2 double bedrooms, 2014 bathroom suite, replastered throughout, 2014 combi boiler, new carpets. NO CHAIN. ER=D.
£119,950**NEW**
HERBERT STREET, BARRY
Traditional semi detached, well presented. 2 double bedrooms, modern fitted kitchen, living room/dining room, driveway & garage.
£134,950**NEW**
CORA STREET, BARRY
Two double bedrooms & box room/study. Mid terrace traditional, living/dining room, utility area, WC cloakroom. First floor bathroom, enclosed rear garden. ER=E.
£112,500**NEW**
LUCAS CLOSE, BARRY
Five bedrooms, master with ensuite, sitting room, living/dining room, fitted kitchen. Utility room, family bathroom, enclosed rear garden. Ample parking.
£167,500**NEW**
POPLAR COURT, BARRY
Modern semi detached, driveway & side access. Well presented, fitted kitchen overlooking front. 2 bedrooms, cul de sac.
£114,950**NEW PRICE**
COURTENAY ROAD, BARRY
End of terrace, refurbished throughout, living room with original fireplace. Sitting room, spacious fitted kitchen 2014, 3 bedrooms & family bathroom. Side access - enclosed garden. NO CHAIN. ER=D.
£152,000**NEW PRICE**
GREENACRES, BARRY
Modern semi detached, 4 bedrooms, living room, sitting room or bedroom (converted garage). Fitted kitchen, enclosed private garden, paved driveway providing ample parking. ER=D.
£158,950**NEW PRICE**
WELL WALK, BARRY
Semi detached, in need of modernisation, original features remaining. 2 reception rooms, fitted kitchen, original dresser. WC cloak, spacious plot ideal for extending, double gates - off road parking. ER=D.
£229,950**NEW PRICE**
BARRY ROAD, BARRY
Edwardian mid terrace, 3 double bedrooms, 2 reception rooms, 18ft breakfast/kitchen. Off road parking to rear via lane. Town centre location. NO CHAIN.
£130,000**CORNWALL ROAD, BARRY**
Elevated bungalow, living room, kitchen/diner. 3 bedrooms, family bathroom, private, enclosed garden. Garage/driveway, front garden planted with mature shrubs. ER=D.
£179,950**GLADSTONE ROAD, BARRY**
Mid terrace traditional, bay fronted, through living room, sitting room. 3 bedrooms, family bathroom, 1 bedroom ensuite, garage. NO CHAIN. ER=D.
£169,950**CWRT NEWTON POOL, RHOOOSE**
Modern end of terrace, constructed approx. 11 years, modern kitchen to front, living room, conservatory. 3 bedrooms (master ensuite). Driveway and garage, well presented. NO CHAIN.
£164,950**HEOL SIRHIWI, BARRY**
Two double bedrooms, semi detached bungalow. Viewing highly recommended. Living/dining room, well presented, cul de sac position, driveway providing ample parking, garage. NO CHAIN. EPC=D.
£159,950**SEAPOINT, BARRY**
2nd floor. 1 Bedroom, views over the old harbour and the Knap. Kitchen/breakfast area, family bathroom, economy 7 heating - UPVC DG. Security door entry system. ER=D.
£102,000**LEE ROAD, BARRY**
Mid terrace traditional, well presented throughout, living room/dining room, fitted kitchen opening to utility. Bathroom, 3 bedrooms, UPVC. GCH via a combination boiler. Ideal first time buy. EPC=D.
£99,950**DAVID DAVIES HOUSE, BARRY**
Very well presented, replacement kitchen & bathroom. 2 bedrooms, second floor apt, separate kitchen, parking-communal entry, laundry room. EPC=C.
£79,950**PORTHKERRY RD, BARRY**
Elevated mid terrace traditional, 2 separate recep. rooms. Modern kitchen, 3 bedrooms, bathroom, well presented. NO CHAIN. ER=D.
£138,000**HOWARD COURT, BARRY**
Two double bedroomed, ground floor apt, living room overlooking front. Modern fitted kitchen, shower room, garage/parking. NO CHAIN - Extended lease. ER=D.
£104,950**BARRY ROAD, BARRY**
Spacious mid terrace, 3 double bedrooms, living/dining room, kitchen/breakfast, UPVC DG & GCH via combi. Enclosed rear garden. ER=D.
£114,950**CASTLELAND ST, BARRY**
Mid terrace traditional, 2 reception rooms, feature fireplace in living room, fitted kitchen, 3 bedrooms, combi boiler, NO CHAIN. ER=E.
£124,950**COEDYR FELIN, BARRY**
Versatile living, detached property, former showhome, living room, dining room, kitchen. WC cloak, separate annex, living room, sitting room, study, bathroom, driveway. ER=D.
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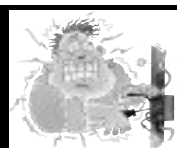
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Public Notice

LICENSING ACT 2003
Section 17 (5)
Notice of Application for a Premises Licence
NOTICE IS GIVEN THAT
An application has been made to Bridgend County Borough Council (the Licensing Authority) for a

PREMISES LICENCE
To permit licensable activities which it is proposed will be carried on, on or from the premises shown below. Details of the application may be inspected between the hours of: Monday to Thursday 0830 to 1700 hours and Friday 0830 to 1630 hours at Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB or by visiting the authority's website: www.bridgend.gov.uk.

Any responsible authority or any other person may make representations in respect of the application, which must be submitted, in writing, to the following address before the date shown below:-
Licensing Section, Bridgend County Borough Council, Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB.

Name of applicant: Mr Gareth Roberts.
Name and postal address of the premises:

Little Penybont Arms, 11 Penybont Road, Pencoed, Bridgend CF35 5PY.

Statement of intended licensable activities: (1) Sale of alcohol from hours 1100 to 2300 Monday - Sunday.

Date by which representations must be made: Tuesday 17th February 2015.

This notice remains in force from and including the day after the giving of this notice to the licensing authority, namely 20th January 2015, for 28 consecutive days.

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application. The maximum fine on summary conviction is £5,000.

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GEM FAMILY NOTICES

DAVIES Lydia Mary

On January 17 at Princess of Wales Hospital Bridgend after a long illness, Lydia of Llanblethian and formerly of Llanmihangel Farm. Beloved wife of the late David, dearly loved mother of Carole, Angela, Christine and Julia, much loved mother-in-law, grandmother and great grandmother.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Monday February 2, service 2pm at Holy Cross Church, Cowbridge, followed by private interment. Family flowers only may be sent to the funeral home, donations in lieu, if desired, to the Cystic Fibrosis Adult Centre at Llandough Hospital. Please make cheques payable to Better Life Appeal, c/o J.W. James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhosce, CF62 3DZ.

DAVIES Glyn George

Died peacefully on January 13th, aged 86, well known for his time at The Welsh National School Of Medicine. Glyn, of Pontypridd Road, beloved husband of the late Jean, father to Andrew and Judi. Proud Grandad to Christopher, Louisa Kate, Matthew and Oliver.

Funeral service Friday, 6th February at 2pm in All Saints Church, Barry, followed by cremation at Cardiff & Vale Crematorium, Barry at 3pm. Family flowers only. Donations may be sent to Ty Hafan, if desired. Further enquiries to Lyndsay Ellis, The Vale Funeral Service 01446 407962.

JOHNS Patricia Mary

Peacefully on January 19 at College Fields Nursing Home, Barry, Pat (nee Regan) of Rhosce and formerly of Penmark. Dearly loved mother of Mary, Jill and Peter, much loved grandmother and great grandmother. Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Tuesday February 3, service and interment 11.00am at Penmark Church. Flowers may be sent to Funeral Home.

AUDREY REES of Llantwit Major

would like to say a big thank you to all her friends and family for their kindness and the many cards sent to her at this very sad time, due to the loss of Graham Davies.

JONES Mair (nee Davies)

Originally from Pontarddulais, Mair lived for many years in West Pontnewydd, Llanymaen, Cwmbran and latterly in Porthcawl. She died peacefully in Princess of Wales Hospital on Thursday, 15 January 2015, aged 85 years. Dearly loved wife of Chris, much loved mum of Heather and Christine and their husbands Roger and Martyn, also loving grandmother to Beth, James and Jon.

Funeral service at Cowbridge United Free Church, Westgate, Cowbridge CF71 7AQ on Tuesday, 3 February at 11.45am, followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium at 1.15pm, black not necessary. Family flowers only; donations in lieu to the British Heart Foundation, c/o Mr Jack Hawkins, 10 Percy Smith Road, Boverton, Llantwit Major, CF61 1GW. All enquiries to Thomas Bros, St Brides Major, on 01446 775681.

LEWIS Margaret (Peggy)

Peacefully on Sunday, January 18th at Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend, after a short illness, Peggy Lewis of Aberthyn, Cowbridge.

Beloved wife of the late Tom, devoted mother of Tony, Roger and Graham, loving mother-in-law of Lesley, Jan and Nick, caring grandmother of Gareth, Owen, Rhys and Rhodri, and fond great-grandmother of Lila.

Funeral service at St John the Baptist Church, Llanblethian on Wednesday, February 4th, 2015, at 12 noon, followed by a family only cremation at Coychurch. No flowers please. Donations, if desired, to the Salvation Army, Cardiff, CF10 5TY, either directly or in the church collection.

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KARISHA DEE
on 28 January 2015

Lots of love from Mum, Dad, sisters, brothers, nieces & nephews xxx



Thank You

THANK YOU

Margaret and Michael Scobie would like to thank Sue, Ian & Sean and all our family and friends for their lovely gifts & cards and for making our Diamond Wedding Anniversary such a wonderful celebration.

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Celebrating Penarth's 150th birthday... Pirates and smugglers peopled town's colourful past

ON June 10, 1865, the first ship entered Penarth dock at 7am in the morning (because of the tide) with people being brought over from Cardiff by the Penarth ferry boat *Kate* for the celebration.

This set the scene for the development of the town we know today – a product of the Industrial Revolution, as was Newport, Cardiff, Swansea and, most remarkably, Barry! Out of 72 inhabitants in 1801, 71 were in agriculture.

Prior to the development of the docks, it is hard to imagine a more rural parish in the Vale of Glamorgan.

Penarth was a collection of farms, an ancient church and a public house, the Penarth Head Inn, with dubious connections to smuggling and piracy. In January 1738, local officials noted that a coastal vessel had been boarded before dawn, and the officers had found two casks of brandy in the hold. These were alleged to have been consigned to a man named Edwards who "had lately built a house by the harbour where there had never been one before, and has been an old offender... and we presume his living in such a place (as he is a man of some substance) is with a design of defrauding the King of his customs".

The King's boat was moored on Edwards' ground,

by Brian Keitch

and he had threatened to cut the moorings and to attack any officer who came near his house at night!

A month later a special constable searching some houses at Penarth found quantities of brandy which the owners said they had found on the beach near Penarth Head, and which was undoubtedly part of Edwards' brandy.

The lingua franca of the age was Welsh. If one got to the Penarth Head Inn it would be via Cwtych y Cwm.

Church records reveal that services were normally spoken in English but the curator of Sully reported that he sometimes preached in Welsh, while in nearby Lavernock the curate explained that he did for the most part preach in Welsh for "they understood it better than English".

Similarly in Penarth, the services were conducted in Welsh right up to the construction of the docks.

Maps of the age reveal that many of the field names for the area were in Welsh. The field near West House in Penarth was 'cae'r ffa', which means bean field; field names in Sutton farm, Lavernock were Welsh as was the case in Llandough.

Then there was the small matter of getting about – with unmade roads or tracks it was a case of horseback or shanks' pony. The paddle steamer *Glamorgan*, which ran from Swansea to Bristol, dropped passengers off at Sully if they wanted to go to Cardiff.

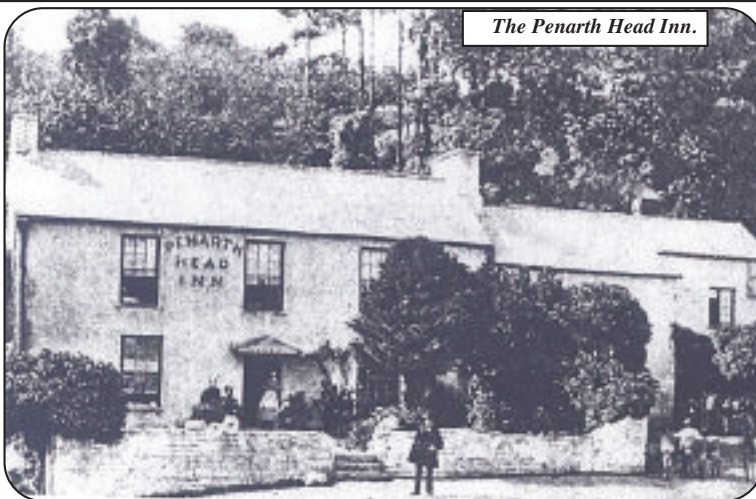
For the folk of Penarth, a trip to Cardiff was best made by rowing boat otherwise it was a marathon by land.

Taking the track from St Augustine's Church the traveller would have to pass from Tyler's Farm, West House, up to Cornerswell, past Coed y Hebog, through the Lantwys, where refreshment could be taken at the Merrie Harrier (known locally as 'the dog').

You could bypass Llandough altogether by taking the road to Croft Mawr on to Leckwith. Some interesting points regarding the Hurst Estate Map of 1791 – Llandough once boasted a beach on the Cogan Pill.

Also, intriguingly, the same map has a field called

The Penarth Head Inn.



'Castle Field' near Cogan Pill House – but this became a stone quarry so anything archaeologically buried under the soil was swept away.

On to Leckwith, over Pen Y Heol and down Leckwith Hill (past the woollen factory) out to the ancient pack horse bridge where Leckwith's own pub could be found – The Cardiff Arms (NOT the one of rugby fame!) – over the bridge and on to Canton – then a village in its own right with market days and its own brewery. Another mile or so and Cardiff beckoned.

The age when post coaches ran from Swansea via Cowbridge and Cardiff to London (in one day!), when Aberddawen was the port of the Vale and preachers travelled from one village to another was about to disappear.

The South Wales Railway arrived in 1850, the Taff Vale Railway, earlier in 1841.

Disagreements between the latter company and the Bute Trustees encouraged the railway to build its own docks. Those docks would be built at Penarth.

Next: coal comes to Ely harbour...

Meeting place for senior citizens

ARE you a senior citizen who wants to make new friends or would like a few hours out on an afternoon.

Why not come to the Senior Health Shop monthly afternoon tea?

The next afternoon tea will be held on Wednesday, February 4 at 1.15pm with tea/coffee and scones, jam and cream with a free raffle and a quiz. The tea will be a Valentine theme.

The cost is £3 so why not call in and put your name down for a great afternoon. Contact 01446 773235 for further information.

Chamber of trade meeting

THE next meeting of Cowbridge Chamber of Trade will be at 9am, Tuesday, February 3, in Bar 44.

Also, on Thursday, February 12, there will be a networking evening in the Bear Hotel, starting at 6pm. This event is organised jointly by the chamber of trade and the Cowbridge guide.

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'Keep the memory alive' is vital theme as Holocaust Memorial Day is marked



HOLOCAUST Memorial Day was marked on Tuesday (January 27), and as part of the commemoration, Art Central in Barry opened its Holocaust Memorial Exhibition on Monday evening.

The exhibition marks the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau and the 20th anniversary of the Srebrenica massacre in Bosnia.

This year, the theme of Holocaust remembrance is more relevant than ever due to the increase in anti-Semitism in Europe – Jewish people in France have been targeted by Islamic extremists, and it has been reported that last year, as many as 7,000 Jews moved from France to Israel.

The Mayor of the Vale of Glamorgan Council, Coun Howard Hamilton, hosted the evening at Art Central.

The Mayor said: "This is the ninth year the council has staged an exhibition to commemorate this day."

"We have selected the national Holocaust Memorial Trust's theme 'Keep the Memory Alive' and have delivered arts workshops to over 250 local school children."

"The workshops had a significant impact on the young people some of whom commented on their own personal experiences which enabled them to understand, explore and accept each other's differences."

"The combination of the children's work from the World War Two Terezin ghettos and the work by the school children of today has created an atmospheric exhibition that cannot fail to have a significant impact on the viewer."

"This moving and thought-provoking exhibition enables us to remember the past and consider the part we can play in challenging hatred and bullying to create a safer and better future for us all."

Coun Gwyn John, cabinet member for arts and culture told guests: "The Vale's Holocaust Memorial exhibition specifically focuses on art work and poetry created during the Second World War by the 'Children of the Terezin'. Terezin was a walled ghetto in the Czech Republic."

"During World War Two, 150,000 people were sent to Terezin – approximately three times the population of Barry here in the Vale – 15,000 of these were children; a mere 100 of these children survived the horrors of the camp, the others' lives cut short, their futures unjustly stolen, as many perished at Auschwitz."

"The ghetto killed many things, but it could not destroy the hope and creativity of the children; displayed within this exhibition are drawings and a few poems created by the young people whilst they were confined."

"The poem 'I haven't seen a

Butterfly around Here' inspired the installation of white butterflies created by the children in Vale primary schools who are honouring the memory of the children of Terezin.

"Working with over 250 primary school children in the Vale of Glamorgan, conflict and war artist Nicola Tucker, together with the council's arts development team, Tracey Harding and Josephine Sowden delivered workshops in schools for 9 – 11 year olds."

"The creative workshops focused on the history of the Second World War, and the impact it had on the 'Children of the Terezin'."

"Nicola and Tracey translated the eight steps of 'Genocide' into eight steps to 'Bullying'."

"The workshops focused on why we should be kind to each other, the workshops described Europe as the children's school playground and how that can be divided by individuals or groups of children to embrace or segregate others through name calling, or social media."

"The workshops had a significant impact on the young people some of whom commented on their own personal experiences."

"We also have on show the annual 'Race Equality First Calendar and Poster' designs themed 'We Are All Equal', created by children from Vale and Cardiff Schools."

LIBERATION

The High Sheriff of the South Glamorgan David Jenkins read the Stockholm declaration 'Statement of Commitment' created on January 27, 2000, when representatives from 46 governments around the world met in Stockholm to discuss Holocaust education, remembrance and research.

At the end of that meeting, all attendees signed a declaration committing to preserving the memory of those who have been murdered in the Holocaust.

January 27, the date of the liberation of the Auschwitz concentration camp, was named Holocaust Memorial Day in 2001. Over the last 13 years thousands of events have taken place across the UK on or around this day to ensure the stories relating to the Holocaust are never forgotten.

Art Central Gallery is open from 10am to 4pm, Monday to Saturday. The 'Keep the Memory Alive' exhibition runs until Saturday, February 21, 2015.

For more information on the exhibition visit www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk or contact the Arts Development Team on 01446 709805, or email artinthevale@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

ABOVE:

Tracey Harding, arts development officer and Art Central gallery manager, Coun Gwyn John, cabinet member for art and culture, Nicola Tucker, conflict and war artist, Coun Howard Hamilton, Mayor of the Vale, Josephine Sowden, arts development assistant, Sally Richards, Wales national support worker for HMDT, David Jenkins, High Sheriff of South Glamorgan.



'HUB' SCHOOLS SET TO PROVIDE IMPROVEMENTS

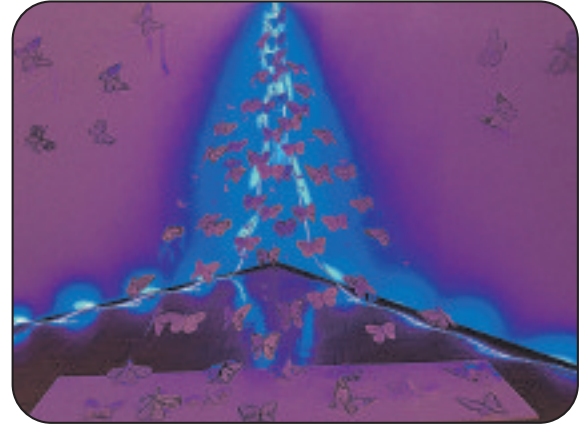
FIFTEEN schools from across south Wales, including the Vale and Bridgend county boroughs, have been chosen by the Central South Consortium to offer school improvement programmes from January.

The schools are named Olevi Hubs, which have been accredited by leading training firm Olevi International.

They will construct support programmes which can be accessed by the 408 schools across central south Wales.

Coun Chris Elmore, Vale cabinet member for children's services, said: "What has been established is a network through which some of the best schools in Wales can share the knowledge and expertise that have brought them success."

They included: Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg; '4Schools' (a collaboration between Barry Island Primary School, Cadoston Primary School, Rhws Primary School and Romilly Primary School); Y Pant Comprehensive School; Maesteg School.



MYSTERY DAMAGE TO HISTORIC FOUNTAIN

A HISTORIC fountain in the centre of old Dinas Powys has suffered massive damage and an appeal has been launched for information as to what caused it.

The fountain is built into a wall around the square which is in the shape of a triangle on the Twyn.

It is located at the junction of Station Road and Elm Grove Road and opposite The Horseshoes.

The supporting wall has also been badly damaged. Coun Chris Franks, chair of the community council, said people were upset to see what had happened to a part of the village's past.

He said: "The fountain has been smashed in two from what we can determine. This is a small link with our past and is a great shame."

"Although the water



supply was cut off some time ago, it reminds everyone that not so long ago, Dinas Powys was a rural community. "The wall was hit by a significant force. We suspect that a vehicle involved that was very powerful."

"We are investigating this matter and have obtained CCTV evidence which is being

examined. However, if anyone has information, please let us know."

"The community council refurbished the fountain two years ago and had hoped that it would be in good repair for many years to come."

"The council has made the area safe and will now have to decide what is the best course of action."

Could a post office move to Barry Road?

LOCAL MP Alun Cairns has met a prospective new Post Office operator in Barry to discuss plans after Co-operative food

stores announced the closure of the post office on Colcot Road.

Mr Cairns met Pam Dhesi from a nearby store to discuss the possibility of her store accommodating a new postal facility.

Pam Dhesi said: "I am keen to take over the running of the facility, and have spoken with the Post Office to register my interest. I discussed the potential of the site with Alun Cairns, and explained that I have previously operated a successful post office. It is a natural fit for our store."

Mr Cairns said: "I am very pleased that we have been able to identify a new site so quickly in Barry. The decision by the Co-op is

disappointing, but to have such an experienced and capable operator in Pam and her team is very good news. I have been in touch with the Post Office to support the bid."

Vale AM Jane Hutt has met Mike Ash-Edwards of the Co-operative Group to protest about the recent announcement of the closure of the Colcot Road (Williams Store) post office.

She reported: "I told Mr Ash-Edwards that there has been a post office at the Williams Store for over 30 years and its closure would be a huge loss to the community – especially following the recent closure of Highlight Park post office."

"I have urged him to re-consider," she added.

Barry Seconds hold out for win

BARRY 2nd XV finally got the 2015 under way as they hosted Clwb Rygbi in damp conditions at Reservoir Fields.

Coach Rhidian Scott and manager Ken Chow were once again put to the test with late withdrawals, forcing them to hand Chris Parker a return to rugby after 18 months out, while Gareth Hall and Jordan Clarke were

promoted from the successful 3rd XV last weekend.

The visitors coped better with the conditions early on, as they were assisted by the wind and slope and put the Barry tight five under enormous pressure, especially at scrum time. The home line-out fared no better either, and this gave Clwb Rygbi the opportunity to lay siege to the Barry line, and the pressure duly told after

15 minutes when they crashed over for a well-worked try.

Barry huffed and puffed but could not give their backs quality ball from which they could work with, and instead were dominated by their visitors' forwards who appeared to be fitter. It seemed as if this was going to be a fruitless afternoon for the green-and-whites.

However, in a five minute period the game

turned on its head. First, from inside their own 22, Richie O'Sullivan ran when he could have kicked, creating the space necessary for centres Busuttill and Dicks to work with, and Dave Evans was on hand to finish well in the corner. O'Sullivan was unable to add the extras but Barry were back in the game.

In the blink of an eye the game has taken a turn, and Barry poured forward in search of their second try. It duly came, again from great interplay with the backs, and this time Evans turned provider for the supporting Rhidian Mephram to score near

the posts. O'Sullivan added the extras. Back came Clwb Rygbi however, and following some naive defending and indiscretion in the contact area, Barry were punished with a try near their posts with the conversion a formality.

At halftime the game was nicely poised, and coach Scott emphasised the need to secure home ball in the contact area.

His point was duly noted, and when Parker was sent on as reinforcement early in the second half, Barry took a stranglehold in the game. Fly half O'Sullivan put his side ahead with a

well-struck penalty 10 minutes into the second half. Now looking increasingly threatening, Barry pressurised the CRCC backline into errors that gave the home side territory and possession – an advantage that they would not relent.

After camping deep in the away 22 patiently, Mephram finally found Lloyd Dutton, who crashed through to score. O'Sullivan added the extras to put his side two scores ahead.

There were to be no comeback for the visitors as they were denied even a losing bonus point for their efforts despite laying siege to the Barry

line late on.

The resolute defending was a reflection of the grit and determination shown by the home side to secure a win in the first time of asking in 2015. Final score 22-14.

The 2nd XV will travel to Glamorgan Wanderers this weekend, while the 3rd XV visit

Dinas Powys.

Team: Adams; D Evans, Busuttill, Dicks, Knapman; O'Sullivan, Mephram; Thomas, Turnbull, Pirso; Dutton, Oaten; Morris, Jones ©, Rolfe. **Replacements:** Hall, J Evans, Parker, Clarke. **Man of the match:** Mephram.

KC

Cowbridge darts league

ON Tuesday January 20, there was a big turn out to support the players competing in the semi-finals and final of the Clive Bick Trophy at the Old Post.

The winners were Trish Kinman, Steve Simmonite and Cedric Simmonite (Edmondson A) who defeated Maureen Fleming, Nigel Thomas and Robert Jones (Farmers Arms) 3-1 in the final.

The losing semi-finalist were Sally McCaver, Rob McCaver and John Izzard (Hare & Hounds) and Richie Williams, Joan Burt and Amanda Hole (Old Post Ladies and Edmondson 'C').

Present league standings after 12 matches, are: Llanharri

(88 points), Edmondson B (64), Edmondson A (59), Highwayman Inn (55), Hare and Hounds (53), Farmer's Arms (45), Edmondson C (42) and Old Post Ladies (24).

On Tuesday, February 3, there is a full programme of league matches. The Edmondson A hosts the Hare and Hounds, the Old Post Ladies hosts the Edmondson B, the Highwayman Inn hosts the Edmondson C and Llanharri hosts the Farmers Arms. All matches start at 8.15pm and spectators are welcome.

For further information e-mail Paul a t cowbridgedarts@gmail.com; up-to-date information can be found on the website: www.dartsapsn.co.uk. **PJT**

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THE BARRY DARTS LEAGUE ROUND-UP

On January 16, the BFC Allsorts finally lost their unbeaten record by losing 12-9 away to the Billy Ghosts.

The Cwm Talwg had a big 21-0 win away to the Hell Raisers with Nicky Smith hitting a 180.

The Poachers overcame the Caddy Cons Raiders 17-4 with Jon Hurn, Terry Williams and Ray Way all hitting 180s.

The Mariners beat the Loungers 17-4 and the Plastics had a 12-9 win against the Wanderers.

The Park Weasels had a 15-6 away win against the Tynewydd while the Dockers overcame the Runways 13-8. On January 23, the BFC Allsorts

beat the Raiders 18-3 with John Morgan hitting a 114 out shot and Peter deSouza hitting a 106 out.

The Tynewydd traveled to Rhoeose to get a 13-8 victory over the Runways. Gareth Owens hit a 180 and Ashley Baker hit a 100 out shot.

The Cwm Talwg had a comfortable 16-5 home win over the Mariners while the Billy Ghosts remain on top of the league with a 13-8 away win over the Park Weasels.

The Dockers were away to the Wanderers and had a 13-8 win, with Nicky Williams hitting a 180, and the Plastics won 18-3 away to the Loungers.

RL

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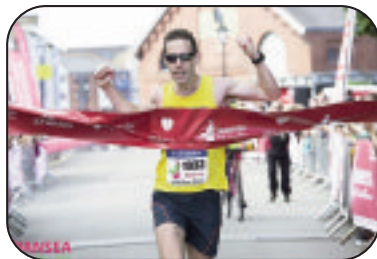
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Swansea Half-Marathon is great for all runners



Matthew Wells crosses the finish line last year.

THE winner of last year's JCP Swansea Half Marathon, Matthew Wells from Bridgend, is urging runners, keep-fitters and complete beginners to join this year's event on Sunday, June 14.

Matthew, a member of Bridgend Athletics Club, completed last year's course in one hour, 14 minutes and 39 seconds – a time he plans to beat in June.

The new improved route will set off from the heart of the city centre, starting on Oxford Street, before taking in a lap of the Kingsway, running past Swansea Castle, down Wind Street, before

heading along Mumbles Road and turning at Knab Rock.

Matthew said: "One of the things that is so enjoyable about events like the JCP Swansea Half Marathon is that you have elite athletes at the start line along with people who are there to enjoy the atmosphere and the fun of it, and people who are doing their bit to support some very good causes."

Matthew, aged 30, is a family lawyer based at Swansea's JCP Solicitors, who put their weight behind the annual run by signing up as principal sponsor.

To sign up to this year's JCP Swansea Half Marathon go to: www.swanseaahalfmarathon.co.uk.

News from the Sully Centurions

IT may be still be winter but Sully Centurions cricket club are already gearing up for the new season, which will be the club's 60th anniversary year.

On Thursday, January 29, the club holds its annual general meeting at the Seashore Grill, Sully, commencing at 7.30pm. All members are urged to attend to have a say in the running of the club.

The pre-season indoor nets start on February 3 at the newly opened Four Squares Sports facility on Penarth Road, Cardiff (next to the Hyundai showroom); juniors 6pm-7pm, seniors 7pm-8pm. Anyone interested in joining the club, senior or junior, is cordially invited to attend these sessions.

The club has also been informed of the draws for the Welsh Cup and the National Village Cup for the 2015 season - Village Cup

(Sunday, May 17) at home against Pentrych CC, where the winners will host Ynystawe CC in the next round, and in the Welsh Cup (Sunday, June 7) we are at home against Ponthir CC.

Finally, congratulations to the club's welfare officer, Jemima Sylvester, on two fronts - firstly, for passing the 'safeguarding children' course with flying colours, but most of all for the announcement of her engagement to Ross - all at the club send their best wishes.

MF

Barry Atoms and Cowbridge in a real thriller

THIS game between Barry Atoms under-12s and Cowbridge was a real thriller and pleasure to watch on a heavy pitch.

This Barry side is coming of age and although there was a magnificent solo try scored by Rory, this was a team display - they stood up and were counted. Final score: Cowbridge 10, Barry Atoms 7.

Squad: Couchy, Rhys, Jamie, Harry, Eski, Mason, Connor, Fin, Rory, Zak, Cai, Taylor,

Iestyn, Anton, Norm, Ben, Ethan, Jack L, Jack R, Meg.

DD

Barrivale bridge results

LATEST results from Barrivale Bridge Club for January 20:

1st Mike Close & Denis Mottram 67.08%; 2nd Mark Roderick & Kay Dyer 66.25%; 3rd Simon & Debbie Richards 56.67%. Mark Roderick and Kay Dyer won on handicap.

New members are always welcome at Barrivale. A partner may be arranged if required. If you would like to join us ring 01446 418380 or 01446 733425 or call at the Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road, Barry on Tuesdays at 7pm.

DR

The Barry & District mens skittle league

DIVISION 1:

49'ers (M.Could 30) 300, Bunker Boys (A.Jeynes 29) 284; Barry Park 'B' (R.Freeman 28) 268, Geest (L.Galsworthy 27) 273; Blue Monkey (T.Clode 28) 266, Ex-Servicemen (G.Dent 28) 267; Geest (L.Galsworthy 33) 289, Park Lads (I.Twaddle 31) 271; Park Rangers (G.Bennett 28) 274, The Merryman (M.Davies 31) 271; Park Lads (D.Morgan 28) 270, The Hairy Lemons (T.Linney 30) 260; The Merryman (M.Davies 29) 49'ers (J.McInerney, J.Yarr 31) 315; West End Stars (D.Griff 29) 267, Cavaliers (B.Stephenson 30) 260.

Division 2:

Barry Social (T.Richards 29) 259,

Abercrete (D.Arnold, J.Arnold, R.Mountjoy 24) 238; Exiles (A.Collins, G.Mitchell, T.Williams 26) 256, Road Runners (A.Guppy 28) 265; Posties (I.Jones 30) 267, Tynny Fliers (M.Kirke 28) 259; Sea View (K.Pycroft 31) 293, Tynnewydd Lads (D.Sluman 34) 276; The Royalists (J.McEwan 32) 264, Witchill Wizards (A.Butler 27) 262; The Royalists (G.Evens 28) 286, Tynnewydd Lads (D.Kerslake 29) 288; Willie Wombles (J.Fefferies 28) 265, BP Breakaways (P.Garsiner, J.Mills 27) 277; Tynnewydd Lads (Sluman 31) 266, Witchill Wizards (C.Wylam 29) 296; Witchill Poachers (D.Richardson 38) 335, Buffs Exiles (I.Dowdell 36) 342.

Division 3:

Billy Whizz (J.Falligia 28) 266, The Rejects (P.Edgar 31) 272; Cannon Balls (D.Pike 33) 308, West End Fliers (R.Green 33) 319; 'H' Belles (T.Mullins 30) 293, Castle Boys (J.Adams, N.Hughes 27) 262; KP Monkeynuts (K.Payne 32) 283, Billy Whizz (T.Hunt, D.Miller 24) 255; West End Fliers (T.Clements 28) 264, British Rail (R.Wheeler 31) 259.

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- 59 RENAULT Clio 1.2 Extreme 3-Dr In black, 36,000 miles, low insurance Reduced to £5,295
- 12 FIAT Panda 1.2 Active 5-Dr In black, 22,000 miles, £30 road tax £4,995
- 49 FORD Focus 1.6 Zetec 5-Dr In met blue, 75,000 miles, ideal family hatch £4,995
- 09 SUZUKI Splash 1.2 GLS+ 5-Dr. In met blue, 55,000 miles, low insurance £4,995
- 58 RENAULT Clio Dynamique 1.2 Estate In silver, 60,000 miles with a/c, alloys £4,995
- 58 RENAULT Clio 1.5 Diesel Dynamique 5-Dr In black, 71,000 miles, 1 owner, £30 road tax £4,995
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- 09 PEUGEOT 207 1.4s VTI In met turquoise, 59,000 miles with a/c £4,295
- 09 CITROEN C3 1.4 Diesel VT 5-Dr In silver, 52,000 miles, £30 road tax £4,295
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- 07 SEAT Ibiza 1.4 Diesel Reference Sport 3-Dr In red, 79,000 miles £3,995
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Brian's (point-to-point) blast from the past!

I was surprised by the number of references to point-to-point riders who hailed from the Vale I come across when looking through one of my many press cutting books from the 1970s.

The first one dealt with Bonvilston farmer Tudor Harris and, under a picture of him riding a horse called *Pippelen* to victory, I told how Tudor had ridden his first winner at the age of 16 on a horse called *Old Beauty*, a 33-1 outsider at the Penttyrch Hunt Steeplechases.

The next clipping told how Bridgend butcher

David Oakes, who had been associated with Hereford's Bill Bryan and horses Prince Abyss, Jim Lad and *General Imp*, had split and how he would from then on be riding on the Welsh hunt-racing circuit.

There was also a reference to Aberthir farmer Ross Farr, the then reigning Welsh champion rider who had bought from Peter Cundell's yard a horse called *Etruscan King* on which he had won three point-to-point races in the west Wales area.

Another cutting, dated February 28, 1977, under the heading '16-1 Gary Top Of The Form'

revealed how Gary Perkins, a 16-year-old pupil of Pencoed Secondary School, who was having just his second ride in public, rode 16-1 chance *Fleetwood* to victory at the Tivyside Hunt Steeplechases.

Another heading reads 'Housewife Bags A Double' and this was in reference to local trainer Evan Williams' mother Mary Williams, who had ridden a double at the Glamorgan Hunt Steeplechases at St Hilary.

Mary took the members' race on *Rory M* and later the ladies' open race on the towering *Underhill*

which beat Wales' most famous point-to-pointer *Mandryka* by three lengths after taking the lead at the second last fence.

Also in the news was Coychurch's Paul Hamer, a 17-year-old welding apprentice, who chalked up his first winner on Dillwyn Thomas' *Cefn Solomon* at the Llangeinor Hunt Point-To-Point.

Paul went on to greater things, including winning a hunter chase at Sandown Park on his brother Geoffrey's *Yellow Jersey*.

Then there was my story of Cowbridge's Anne Williams, celebrating her 21st

birthday one day early when winning the ladies' open race on her father Ted Williams' *Channel Ten* at the Gelligaer Farmers fixture.

The legendary Cowbridge farmer John Llewellyn appears in many of my scrapbooks but on this occasion we will only give him one mention.

It was at the Llangibby Hunt Point-To-Point at Howick, near Chepstow, that John, riding a horse called *Cloud Castle*, whose owner Mrs Jean French had rescued from the slaughterhouse, scored an impressive win in the men's open race when beating the much thought of *Master*

Straight.

One of the funniest items was about David Williams standing on top of the second last fence at St Hilary after being unseated by his mount *Saravant*. Amazingly he went on to win the race, and if you know how he managed to do so then please let me know, as I have forgotten.

Please e-mail your point-to-point memories/news to brianlee4@virginmedia.com or phone him on 02920736438.

TOM'S JEDFOREST WINNER

Tom David from Llanharan, who is assistant trainer to Zara Phillips, landed the men's open race at the Jedforest Hunt Point-To-Point Steeplechases on *Woodview Prince*, who came home six lengths ahead of *Cave Hunter*. Meanwhile, at the Tiverton Hunt Point-To-Point at Chipley Park, *Silver Token*, partnered

by Harry Cobden, and owned and trained by David Brace of the Dunraven Stud Farm at Pyle near Bridgend, was a 2-1 winner of the club members' race.

The mixed open race here was won by 12-1 chance *Parkam Jack* who, ridden by Welsh champion rider John Mathias, beat the odds-on favourite *Certain Flight*, ridden by Will Biddick.

BRIAN LEE

Quarks shock Phoenix to go top of the league

THE league table for division three of the East Glamorgan Chess Association is quite a surprise at the moment, because the Barry Quarks team are top of the league!

No, it's really true. The Quarks travelled to Pontypridd to play the Phoenix. They are the only team so far to have given us a hiding so the omens were not good.

However, with Kevin Gandy leading the team on board one, we returned with a 4-1 win. We won all three games with the white pieces and with black we managed two draws.

At the start of the season we were merely looking to consolidate and were almost expecting to be in a relegation battle. However, now it seems we have entered the race for promotion to division two.

Alas, it was not so good for the Camelots. All season, they have

been at the top of the first division. However, they recorded a disappointing loss to the Cardiff Monarchs, 3-2.

Only Ashley Davis won his game and the rest of the team could only manage two draws and two defeats. The Camelots have now dropped to third in the table.

With the Cardiff Castles picking up four points, the Camelots are now 4.5 points off the pace and their title charge is faltering. They only

have a further seven games to try to catch up.

The Barry Chess Club meets at 7.30 pm each Monday at the West End Club, St Nicholas Road, Barry CF62 6QY. The club is open to players of all standards; whether you are interested in playing competitive chess or just the occasional friendly games. For more details visit our website at barrychessclub.yolasite.com.

PJ

Cross country season test for pupils



Jack Blackmore (year-8) represented Barry Comprehensive in the Cardiff Cross Challenge.



Joseph Hewings (left) finished in third place in the under-17 men's event.

TWO Barry Comprehensive School students represented the school in the Cardiff Cross Challenge for Cardiff and the Vale Schools on Sunday, January 17.

Joseph Hewings (year-10) and Jack

Blackmore (year-8) ran extremely well, with Jack finishing in 45th place in the under-15 boys schools event and Joseph finishing in third place in the under-17 men's event.

It was excellent work by both in very tricky, muddy conditions.

AC

Barry and District ladies skittles league

RESULTS for week commencing January 12:

First division: SV Gals (J Cannon 32) 281, Allsorts (C Griffiths 29) 274; Coppers (J Hartnell, J Williams 31) 325, Special Angels (L Brigham, C Thomas, L Mountford 29) 309; Barry Stars (M Richards 39) 320, Colcot Ladies (H Edwards 33) 312; Pila Palas (S Bennett 32) 295, Cigar Ladies (B Gough, G Wood 26) 242; Family and Friends (R White 25) 208, Bakers Dozen (N Martin 28) 254.

Second division: Witchill Widows (C Gregory 34) 324, Strikers (L Goodwin 31) 336; Roller Coasters (J Marriott 26) 202, Clickies (M Williams 28) 225; After Eights (E Tombs, P Mephram 30) 307, Bobby's Girls (B Macdonald 35) 292; SV Lights (D Masterman, D Thomas, N Alsop 28) 293, Castle Bandits (D Collard 31) 296; Rhooose Starlights (K Bryan 26) 253, Breakaways (L Smith 26) 239.

Third division: Airways Angels (A Crook 27) 250, Rhooose Rovers (M Griffiths 28) 260; Jolly Dollies (M Enticott, C Thomas 27) 213, Witchill Wanderers (C Nicholson, L Selby

23) 199; Westenders (J Jaynes 31) 269, Rugby Triers (M Wilson 29) 210; Hill Billies (Moorcraft 33) 325, SV Ladies (R Leach 33) 310; Dolly Mixtures (T Rowsell 22) 191, Lil's Devils (J Jones 26) 215; Persuaders (E Gardner 28) 228, Etcetera (M Grasby 26) 222; Friends and Neighbours (L Williams 30) 257, Merry Maker (C Hatcher, T Lesimere, C Rowles 28) 290.

Fourth division: Rebels (L Spurr 21) 194, Odd Bods (N Williams 23) 197; Twilights (C Kaged 23) 212, Railway Rogues (C Rogers 24) 202; Off The Rails (J Davies 23) 170, Challengers (L Morgan 28) 235; BFFs (L Howells 25) 208, Wyndham Witches (Y Cumau 23) 222; Fallen Angels (N Edwards 31) 281, La Belles (N Cordy, S Peacock 25) 226.

Fifth division: Liberals (K Palmers 31) 266, Barry Rovers (L Hodder, J Gough 25) 226; Socialites (J Fumis 29) 263, Aristocats (A Scott 31) 261; Billy Bunters (G Loveless 27) 244, Guardian Angels (S Aston 30) 182.

CTC House, Whittle Road, Leckwith Industrial Estate, Cardiff, CF11 8AT

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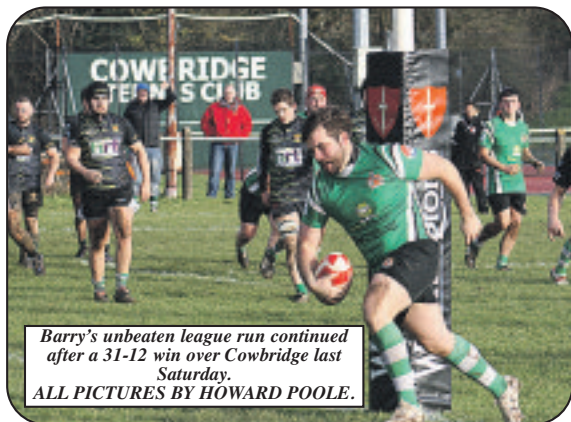
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Barry remain undefeated after victory



Barry's unbeaten league run continued after a 31-12 win over Cowbridge last Saturday.
ALL PICTURES BY HOWARD POOLE.



It was a tough derby encounter with neither side giving any quarter.

BARRY RFC remain undefeated in the league following a 31-12 bonus point win at Cowbridge last Saturday.

Despite the scoreline, Barry were made to work hard, especially in the second half, to maintain pressure on league leaders Dinas Powys, who they meet at home this Saturday, kick off 2.30pm.

One of the better aspects of the league this season is to see the ambition all sides have to play open running rugby as much as possible, and this game was not short of that.

The visitors took the lead as early as the sixth minute when, following a good lineout drive, the ball found Perry to burst through the defence to cross, with Scott adding the extras.

Cowbridge were employing tactical kicking which kept the Barry defence on the back foot for a while. However one poor kick allowed Barry to counter attack through their threequarters from their own half with the ball passing several pairs of hands before reaching White who waded through tackles from 50 yards out to cross for a fine try wide out that went unconverted.

Perhaps two early tries affected Barry as their play became scrappy and loose, providing Cowbridge with plenty of possession which, thankfully, they were unable to turn into points.

Having regrouped Barry went further ahead when a kick ahead was only half gathered and good following up by Provis saw the ball hacked ahead for the ever-present Poole to score, with Scott successful with the conversion.

A similar kick and chase was to lead

to the visitors' final try of the half as they regained possession and released the backs with Perry's beautifully timed pass creating space for Ryan to go over.

The missed conversion gave Barry a well deserved 24-0 lead at half-time.

The second period began slowly with both sides blowing hot and cold and mistakes being the order of the day. Still enjoying plenty of possession and using it to release their backs, Barry opened the second half scoring with a try by White, but one which was created by some fine link play between Scott and Perry, the former providing the extra points.

A mixture of substitutions by both sides and the home side having to 'go passive' at scrum time changed the complexion of the game, with the home side suddenly finding the energy to attack the Barry defence.

This worked as they were rewarded with an interception try from a Barry attack to open their account. With their confidence growing and Barry prone to over elaborate, Cowbridge continued to maintain pressure and force Barry into conceding penalties.

They were suitably rewarded when from a lineout following a penalty a second deserved try was created from a blindside snipe which brought the score to 12-31, which as it turned out was to be the final score as the last were played out.

While Barry never looked like losing the game, I'm sure they will be aware that they will need to be at their very best to beat their fellow unbeaten opponents, Dinas Powys, this coming weekend.

AJ



The Island Marine under-7s.

ISLAND MARINE UNDER-7S THANK THEIR SPONSORS

THE Island Marine under-7s mini team would like to thank Martin and Kate Maloney of RAS Security for their playing kit for the 2014/2015 season; Martin is pictured above with the team.

The squad would also like to thank Gianni and Rachel Zeraschi of Bar Enzo

for their training kit, Liam and Sue Bedan of LCB Construction and Steve Farmer of F&J Car Care.

The squad train on Wednesday evenings at the Amelia Trust Farm, and currently have three coaches, Les Harrington, Liam Blackmore and Andrew Lowrie, all of whom hold grassroots FAW coaching qualifications with the addition of being

first aid certified and fully CRB checked.

The club's aim is to get young children from around the local area interested in being part of a fun and friendly atmosphere, and to improve their fitness and football skills along the way.

NO

Gymnasts are selected for Welsh south central squads



SEVEN Barry YMCA gymnasts are thrilled to have gained selection for the south central area squads.

Following attendance at a trial and good competition results, Ffion Byrne, Lara Watkins, Sophia Foscolo, Hana Davies, Millie Williams, Keeyah Denton and Emmy

Saddler gained the coveted spaces.

Only a select number of gymnasts from across five counties gained a place. They will now attend monthly training.

Congratulations to the gymnasts and to their coaches Aimee McCarthy, Charlotte Gabb, Sophie Erickson and Karen Davies.

KD

Stadium team score maximum points

SULLY Stadium team entertained Ogwr (Bridgend) at Sully on Saturday requiring a win with full points to keep the pressure on the teams at the top of table.

With a number of players unavailable the Sully squad was challenged as the Sully rinks were changed allowing squad members the opportunity to play and for others to play in various positions.

The game was delayed for half an hour as players from both

sides were delayed due to a serious incident on the M4 motorway, and as a result Ogwr began the game playing with four rinks of triples. The missing Ogwr players finally arrived after eight ends had been played with the score as one would expect, in favour of Sully who were leading by 31 shots, 58-27.

The game took a little time to adjust to the rink changes but Sully continued to outplay the opposition and by the 15th end had increased their advantage to 80 shots, 131-50.

Sully maintained their advantage right up to the final end and secured a comfortable win by 78 shots, 157-79, securing the 22 points on offer.

Although Sully had made many changes it

was encouraging to see many of the fringe players playing well and putting themselves forward for selection for the final league game of the season against Newport on Saturday, February 7.

Rink scores (Sully first): B Foscolo 31 v 13 B Tucker; K McLeod 32 v 6 J Morse; G Coghill 23 v 15 T Pearson; M Newman 28 v 13 A Hunter; D Curtis 21 v 18 M Wooley; F Phillips 22 v 14 P Groom.

The Sully senior team have qualified for the national play-offs with the quarter finals to be played on Tuesday, February 10 (opponents to be notified).

FP

Brynhill ladies results

RECENT RESULTS:

Trot, December 9th - winner Shirley Lewis 21 points; December 16 - Shirley Lewis 20 points; December 23 - Jane Phillips 17 points; December 30 - Linda Hewlett 18 points; January 20 - Suzanne Bounds 15 points.

CH

BARRY SPORT ON A HIGH!

AS a supporter of Barry Town United football and Barry Rugby teams, both teams are unbeaten at the half way stage, with Barry Town United top of their league.

I don't think it has ever happened before in over 100 years of playing in Barry.

Good luck to both sides and let's support them!

Richard Jones, Barry.